MOON KNIGHT

CITY OF THE DEAD

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ALEX MALEEV

#1 VARIANT

1
ROB REIS

NO MATTER WHAT I DO...I CAN'T ESCAPE THE *BLOOD.*

EVERY NIGHT, I TRY TO FORGET.

AND EVERY NIGHT, THE GHOSTS WON'T LET ME.

I USED TO BE A MERCENARY--AN UNREPENTANT KILLER.

THE THINGS I DID... THEY CAN NEVER BE *FORGIVEN.*

AND SO EVERY NIGHT, I PUNISH MYSELF...AND PRAY ONE DAY, MY *PENANCE* WILL OUTWEIGH MY GUILT.

Thinking of you always
L.

YET AS THE MOON RISES, I KNOW MY PRAYERS WILL BE LEFT *UNANSWERED...*

HELP!

...BECAUSE THE NIGHT CRIES OUT TO ME STILL.

PLEASE-- SOMEBODY HELP!

THE KID'S NAME IS *KHALIL NASSER.*

EVER SINCE HIS BROTHER DIED, HE'S BEEN ON THE STREETS--AND A REGULAR AT THE *MIDNIGHT MISSION.*

NNF-- D-DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...

YES, THAT'S IT--KEEP RUNNING, LITTLE MOUSE...

BUT THESE PUNKS ARE *ANIMALS*-- A STREET GANG OBSESSED WITH THE EGYPTIAN DEATH GOD, ANUBIS.

THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE *SONS OF THE JACKAL.*

YOUR FEAR MAKES THE BLOOD TASTE THAT MUCH SWEETER.

MURDER, TORTURE, HUMAN SACRIFICE-- THEY'VE MADE A GRUESOME NAME FOR THEMSELVES ALREADY...

WHATEVER THEY HAVE IN MIND FOR KHALIL, IT WON'T BE PRETTY.

IN THE NAME OF THE DEATHBRINGER, I BRING YOU THIS SACRED OFFERING!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT--I WASN'T PLANNING ON PLAYING NICE EITHER.

SHNKK

SHNKK

SHNKK

NYARRRRRGH!

I AM THE GHOST THAT LIVES.

I AM THE SHADOW THAT ENDURES. I AM THE TRAVELER, THE EMBRACER, THE PATHFINDER...

...THE DEFENDER OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT.

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR...AND I AM THE *MOON KNIGHT.*

MEMORY OF A KILLER

THE JACKALS CIRCLE AS I LAND--THEY'RE NOT SCARED OF ME YET.

I'M GIVING YOU JUST ONE CHANCE--LET THE BOY GO...

...OR MEET YOUR GOD UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

IT'S THE FIST OF KHONSHU, GET--*NNF!*

THRAK

THEY WILL BE SOON ENOUGH.

MISTER KNIGHT--LOOK OUT!

I COULD SPEND ALL NIGHT TEACHING THESE CREEPS A LESSON.

THE KID'S TENACIOUS--KEEPS ME FROM A .45-CALIBER MIGRAINE.

RUN ALL YOU LIKE, MOON PRIEST--NOT EVEN YOU CAN STOP DEATH!

YEAH--KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT...

PAFF

BRATATATATA

CHNK

INSTEAD...I MAKE MY POINT USING THE MOST FORCEFUL ARGUMENT POSSIBLE.

...WHILE YOU SPEND THE NEXT SIX WEEKS IN TRACTION.

RRRRRRRRRRKRRRROOOM

BUT LIKE I SAID... TONIGHT IS ABOUT PUNISHMENT.

NOW-- WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED--!

WHUDD

SOMETIMES IT'S NOT ABOUT IF YOU CAN DODGE THE HIT...

...AH $#@%.

HEH... NOW YOU GET IT.

...IT'S ABOUT WHETHER YOU *DESERVE* TO.

KRSSSSH

THE LAST JACKAL MAKES A RUN FOR IT-- HE'S MOVING FAST.

SCREW THIS, I'M OUTTA HERE!

HE'S SCARED-- TOO SCARED TO NOTICE *THE TRUCK.*

THE SHRIEKING TIRES DROWN OUT HIS LAST CRY FOR MERCY...

SKREEEEEEEE

THOOOOM

...AS THE JACKAL FINDS HIS JUDGMENT AFTER ALL.

I'M SORRY YOU SAW THAT, KHALIL--WE'LL GET YOU PATCHED UP...

KHALIL!

SOME CALL ME THE FIST OF KHONSHU--YET RECENTLY, I LEARNED EVEN A GOD HAS *TWO* FISTS.

MY COUNTERPART'S NAME IS BADR...HE CALLS HIMSELF *HUNTER'S MOON.*

WE DON'T OFTEN SEE EYE TO EYE ON THINGS...

WHAT--?

BAMM BAMM

BUT TONIGHT...HE'S THE ONLY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL KHALIL'S GOT.

BADR--I NEED YOUR HELP!

KRAKOOM!!

SPECTOR, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE--?!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR A LECTURE, DAMMIT--I CAN'T FIND A PULSE...

"DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO... JUST SAVE HIM!"

NNFF-- PREPARING EPINEPHRINE...

DAMMIT-- B.P. IS 60/40 AND DROPPING...

BREATHE, CHILD-- COME ON, BREATHE!

NO--HE'S CRASHING!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

RRRR-- STAY WITH ME, BOY...

UREEEEEEEEEEEE

...IN THE NAME OF KHONSHU, YOU MUST FIGHT!

FTHOOOM

THANK YOU, FATHER...

WE HAVE A PULSE.

I BRACE MYSELF FOR BADR'S BARBS--HOW I'M FAILING ONCE AGAIN AS KHONSHU'S AVATAR.

WE NEED TO TALK, BROTHER...

BUT AS HE SPEAKS, I REALIZE THE NEWS IS TOO DIRE FOR EVEN *HIM* TO GLOAT.

KHALIL'S ALIVE--BUT ONLY JUST *BARELY.*

I'M SORRY-- THE BOY SUSTAINED A CONCUSSION, INTERNAL BLEEDING, FULL CARDIAC ARREST...

HE DIED ON THE TABLE FOR FIVE MINUTES BEFORE I COULD BRING HIM BACK.

NO SIGNS OF BRAIN ACTIVITY... WITHOUT A VENTILATOR, HE WOULD PERISH IN MINUTES.

"YOU SAID KHALIL WAS ATTACKED BY THE SONS OF THE JACKAL...?

"WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY ACHIEVE BY MURDERING AN ORDINARY BOY?"

THE RAGE FILLS WITHIN ME--AND I SUDDENLY HAVE A PLAN.

HE'S NOT DEAD *YET,* BADR.

THAT SAID...IT WOULD HELP IF MY PLAN WASN'T DANGEROUSLY *INSANE.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SPECTOR?

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, BADR--KHALIL DIED FOR FIVE MINUTES.

WE MANAGED TO SAVE HIS BODY... BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS *SOUL?*

UNBELIEVABLE--NOT EVEN YOU CAN BE SO ARROGANT...

EVEN IF HIS SPIRIT WERE THERE, NO MORTAL ENTERS *THE DUAT* AND SURVIVES!

I KNOW THIS IS TRAGIC, SPECTOR--BUT I CANNOT SEE WHAT YOU HOPE TO GAIN...

DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU CAN RESCUE KHALIL FROM *THE CITY OF THE DEAD?*

THE QUESTION LINGERS IN THE AIR--BUT WE BOTH KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER.

I DO--FOR AS LONG AS THERE'S STILL LIFE IN HIM, HE REMAINS A TRAVELER OF THE NIGHT...

...AND THAT MEANS THE BOY IS STILL UNDER MY PROTECTION.

→SIGH←

...I BELIEVE YOU MEAN "OUR" PROTECTION, BROTHER.

AND SO, WE BEGIN.

TRAINED IN THE SECRETS OF EGYPTIAN LORE, BADR PREPARES THE RITUALS FOR MY DESCENT.

IF YOU ARE TO TRULY EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY, BE WARNED...

THE DUAT IS A ***DANGEROUS*** REALM--THE PLACE WHERE SOULS GO TO BE JUDGED.

WE SLIP BACK INTO FAMILIAR ROLES--I CAN FEEL BADR'S WITHERING JUDGMENT UPON ME...

YOU MAY SEE THINGS THAT WILL UNSETTLE YOU--THE CITY IS PURELY PSYCHOACTIVE...

WITHOUT PROPER MENTAL DISCIPLINE, THE WORLD CAN SHIFT GREATLY BASED ON THE CONTENTS OF ONE'S HEART.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE SOMETHING YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH, SPECTOR?

FOR A TRUE BELIEVER, MY BROTHER SURE IS GOOD AT BEING A SKEPTIC.

YOU KNOW ME, BADR...

...MENTAL DISCIPLINE IS MY MIDDLE NAME.

VERY WELL, THEN...LET US DETACH YOUR *KA* FROM YOUR BODY.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR *METAPHYSICAL EVACUATION*--BUT BE WARNED...

BADR SPEAKS--AND SUDDENLY I FEEL THE WORLD SHIFT FROM ITS AXIS.

AND AFTER THAT...THINGS ONLY GET *STRANGER.*

...THE EXPERIENCE MAY PROVE TO BE... *DISCONCERTING.*

THE ABYSS BECKONS TO ME AS I FALL INTO THE ENDLESS BLACK...

YET AFTER AN ETERNITY OF NOTHINGNESS, JUST AS I FEAR I'M ABOUT TO LOSE MY MIND...

...THAT'S WHEN I FINALLY SEE THE LIGHT.

AND WHEN I OPEN MY EYES, I KNOW I AM FINALLY HERE...

...DOWN IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD.

THE CITY'S GEOGRAPHY SHIFTS AND RESHUFFLES CONSTANTLY, LIKE A CLOCKWORK MAZE.

THE ETERNAL SANDS ARE DOTTED WITH TURQUOISE TREES AND LAKES OF SMOLDERING FIRE...

...AS THE SOULS OF A THOUSAND GENERATIONS CONGREGATE BELOW.

THE SCALE OF THIS REALM IS OVERWHELMING...

...BUT I NEED TO CATCH MY BEARINGS FAST--BECAUSE THERE'S ONE PLACE I NEED TO VISIT FIRST...

THE GATES OF OSIRIS--THE PALACE OF THE ANCIENT GOD OF DEATH AND REBIRTH.

AND THE CITY'S LONE PASSAGEWAY BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

IF ANYONE WOULD KNOW KHALIL'S WHEREABOUTS, IT WOULD BE OSIRIS--IF I CAN GET PAST HIS GUARDS FIRST.

YOU SHOULD NOT BE HERE, MORTAL--THIS DOMAIN IS *OFF-LIMITS* TO YOUR KIND.

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR--I AM THE FIST OF KHONSHU.

WITH MY MASTER'S SANCTION, I SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH HE WHO BEARS THE EYE--THE MIGHTY *OSIRIS.*

THOTH IS THE GOD OF WISDOM AND HIEROGLYPHS--BUT CLEARLY NOT THE GOD OF HAVING A POKER FACE.

HMPH--THE LORD OF SILENCE IS...INDISPOSED.

UNTIL HIS BUSINESS IS COMPLETE, HE IS NOT RECEIVING VISITORS AT THIS TIME.

WHILE SHEZMU THE EXECUTIONER APPEARS KEEN TO LIVE UP TO HIS NAME.

YOU, HOWEVER, REMAIN A TRESPASSER IN OSIRIS' REALM...

UNLESS YOU WISH FOR THE SCALES OF JUSTICE TO SHOW HOW BLOODSTAINED YOUR HEART TRULY IS.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, I KNOW SOMETHING'S GONE ROTTEN IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD...

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, EXECUTIONER...THIS WASN'T A *REQUEST.*

FOR I SERVE THE GREATEST OF GREAT GODS--AND HIS MISSION SHALL *NOT* BE DENIED.

YOU SPEAK WITH AUDACITY, MOON PRIEST--BUT THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE.

KHONSHU LIES IN CHAINS...HIS AVATARS NO LONGER IMMUNE TO DEATH'S TOUCH.

SO HEED MY WISDOM, AND DEPART TO YOUR MORTAL WORLD.

THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU DOWN HERE--AND IF YOU SEEK TO CAUSE TROUBLE...

"...KNOW THAT IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD...OUR JUDGMENT IS FAR HARSHER THAN YOURS.

‹HAFF-- OH GODS...›*

‹YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- SHE WAS UNFAITHFUL TO ME!›

‹THAT TREACHEROUS SOW FLED INTO THE ARMS OF ANOTHER MAN!›

*TRANSLATED FROM ANCIENT EGYPTIAN.

‹THEY DESERVED EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, DO YOU HEAR ME?!›

‹HAFF HAFF-- THEY DESERVED EVERYTHING--!›

RMMMMMMBBBB

<N-NO-- I TAKE IT ALL BACK!>

<P-PLEASE-- ANYTHING BUT THIS--!>

"FOR IN THE EYES OF *AMMUT THE DEVOURER*, OUR SINS WILL ALWAYS FIND US OUT...

"AND HER APPETITE FOR VENGEANCE IS TRULY *LIMITLESS!*"

KRNCH

NOOOOO!

THE BLACK SUN FALLS, AND I'M NO CLOSER TO FINDING KHALIL THAN WHEN I STARTED.

MISSING GODS, SLAUGHTERED CHILDREN...AND A DEATH CULT LINKING THEM TOGETHER.

THE SONS OF THE JACKAL ARE OBSESSED WITH THE CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH...

...WHICH MEANS THOSE ANUBIS-WORSHIPPERS HAVE TO BE DOWN HERE AS WELL.

THE STREETS ARE PACKED TIGHT WITH SOULS--I SCAN THE CROWD LOOKING FOR A SIGN...

...UNTIL I CATCH AN OLD GHOST STARING BACK AT ME.

DOCTOR ALRAUNE--?

NO--IT CAN'T BE HIM. IT'S ONLY A TRICK OF THE MIND...

OH GOD--NOT YOU!

...DISTRACTING ME FROM THE REAL TASK AT HAND.

THE JACKAL MOVES *FAST*--EVEN FASTER THAN BEFORE--

--BECAUSE WHILE DEATH MAY NO LONGER HOLD ANY TERRORS FOR HIM...

NO--YOU CAN'T BE HERE, DAMMIT!

HE STILL REMEMBERS WHAT I DID TO HIS FRIENDS.

YOU REALLY THOUGHT YOU'D ESCAPED ME, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT WAS YOUR FIRST MISTAKE...

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

DEAD OR ALIVE--I'LL NEVER STOP COMING FOR YOU!

THE *CRESCENT DARTS* MISS THEIR MARK--HE KNOWS THESE STREETS ALREADY--

YOU GUYS-- I DUNNO HOW, BUT HE FOLLOWED US HERE!

THE MOON KNIGHT... HE'S--!

BUT THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME...

AFTER ALL... WHAT BETTER WAY TO LEARN A CITY THAN BY USING A TOUR GUIDE?

GENTLEMEN-- LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.

FOR A MOMENT, I CONVINCE MYSELF THIS MIGHT BE OVER QUICKLY.

...EITHER YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU DID WITH KHALIL...

...OR WHAT I DO NEXT WILL LEAVE YOU BEGGING FOR ANOTHER SPEEDING TRUCK.

BUT THAT'S WHEN THE JACKALS REMIND ME WHY I'M REALLY HERE...

QUICKLY--THE *CHEST--!*

BRING ME THE HEART!

NYAAARRRGH!

BECAUSE DEEP DOWN...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT.

YESSSSS-- FEEL THE POWER WITHIN YOU, BROTHERS...

BREATHE IN THE HEART OF *IMHOTEP*...

"...FILLED WITH ANCIENT MEMORIES BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION!

"FOR HE BATTLED INVADERS FROM THE STARS WITH THE GREAT *EN SABAH NUR*..."

...AND THE TERRIFYING HORSEMEN WHO STRODE BESIDE HIM!

NOW TELL ME, FIST OF KHONSHU...

...ARE YOU VERY AFRAID NOW?

...AH $#@%.

KRSSH

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FIGURED THIS PLACE OUT...

...THE JACKALS JUST MAINLINED THE POWER OF THE *FOUR HORSEMEN OF APOCALYPSE.*

IT'S LIKE I SAID-- SOMETIMES, YOU CAN'T DODGE THE HIT...

PREPARE TO MEET OBLIVION, MOON PRIEST!

BUT IF YOU'RE LUCKY...YOU CAN REDIRECT IT.

THOOM

MY VISION BLURS-- THE JACKAL NEARLY TAKES MY HEAD OFF.

KRAKT

WHAT DID BADR SAY ABOUT "MENTAL DISCIPLINE"?

WE FALL THROUGH MY PAST--CRASHING THROUGH ALL MY WORST MEMORIES...

YOU'D BE AMAZED AT HOW MUCH PAIN SOMEONE CAN TAKE...

...WHEN THEY KNOW THEY DESERVE IT.

BEFORE I EVEN OPEN MY EYES, I CAN FEEL THE CHANGE IN THE WIND.

AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I AM...

I'M BACK ON THE STREETS OF ALEXANDRIA...

KHOOM

...BACK WHEN I WAS CUTTING MY TEETH AS A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER-FOR-HIRE.

EXCEPT THIS WAS NO ORDINARY MISSION...

BRRRTTTATATTATTTATTA

...THIS WAS THE DAY WHEN I TRULY LOST EVERYTHING.

THE MOMENT LINGERS... AND THE JACKALS DECIDE TO ***BURY*** ME IN IT.

GOING SOMEWHERE, MOON PRIEST?!

THRAKK

MY MASK FILLS UP WITH BLOOD-- BREATHING FEELS LIKE BROKEN SHARDS IN MY CHEST.

NOT A BAD SHOWING, LITTLE MAN...

BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT YOU DOWN.

HEH-- HAHAHAHA...

I'D CONSIDER THIS A TRAGEDY... IF ONLY THEY WEREN'T SO *DAMNED STUPID.*

RRRR... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HEH-- YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU'VE ALL JUST MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

KMMMBBB

BECAUSE I KNOW MY SCARS BETTER THAN ANYONE...

...AND I REMEMBER HOW THIS STORY ENDS.

KRAK

THE JACKALS SCREAM IN AGONY AS THE FLAMES CONSUME THE BLOCK.

YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME...?

THEY'RE TRAPPED INSIDE A DEAD MAN'S *NIGHTMARE*...

...AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT...MY NIGHTMARES ARE WHERE I FEEL MOST AT HOME.

I DON'T CARE IF I BURN.

THE MEMORY FADES, AND WE FIND OURSELVES OUTSIDE THE JACKALS' LAIR.

THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING--WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE BOY?!

TALK, DAMMIT--!

CONSUMED BY MY GUILT...I DON'T NOTICE THAT I'VE LEFT MY BACK EXPOSED.

SONUVA...

MARC... WATCH YOUR SIX!

KRAKT

THE MEMORY FADES-- YET I STILL SEE HER STANDING BEFORE ME.

NO-- IT CAN'T BE...

BECAUSE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF PUNISHMENT, MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN *ANSWERED*...

...AS THE UNIVERSE FINALLY DECIDES TO GIVE ME SOMETHING BACK.

LAYLA--?!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE'S CALLED ME THAT, MARC...

NOW THEY CALL ME THE GUARDIAN OF THE DUAT--THE BLADE OF *TAWERET* HERSELF...

THE SCARLET SCARAB!

I BREATHE HER IN AS I HOLD HER, AND TELL HER HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED HER.

BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT BE AFRAID--BECAUSE LAYLA'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME...

...THAT THE DEEPEST PAIN OF ALL...COMES FROM THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE THE MOST.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHAT IS IT YOU WANT WITH ME?

YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, BOY...

THE RITUAL OF OSIRIS CANNOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL YOUR PHYSICAL FORM DIES...

BUT KNOW THIS...NO ONE ESCAPES FROM *THE JACKAL KNIGHT.*

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE-- BECAUSE MISTER KNIGHT IS GONNA FIND YOU...

...AND HE'S GONNA MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER BEEN BORN.

AH, YES...I'D HEARD MARC HAD MANAGED TO CLAW HIS WAY DOWN HERE.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, HE'S SENT MANY MEN TO THIS REALM OVER THE YEARS...

AND THANKS TO THE SORCEROUS MIGHT OF ANUBIS...

...THEY'RE QUITE EAGER TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

2
ROD REIS

"YOU KNOW HE'S GONNA *FIND* ME, RIGHT?"

SO WHATEVER YOUR PLAN IS, I'D START THINKING OF AN EXIT STRATEGY IF I WERE YOU...

'CUZ NO MATTER WHAT YOU THROW AT HIM, ***MISTER KNIGHT*** NEVER STOPS COMING.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, BOY--FOR THE JACKAL KNIGHT ***WELCOMES*** THE CHALLENGE.

MARC SPECTOR MAY STRIKE FEAR AMONG THE LIVING...

"...BUT HE HOLDS NO DOMINION IN *THE CITY OF THE DEAD.*"

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, WE'RE ALL *HAUNTED* IN OUR OWN WAY.

BACK IN OUR MERCENARY DAYS, LAYLA USED TO TELL ME THE PAST WOULD CATCH UP WITH US EVENTUALLY.

WHILE WE DIDN'T ALWAYS FIGHT ON THE SAME SIDE, SHE WAS RIGHT ABOUT *ONE* THING...

...NOBODY OUTRUNS THEIR *SHADOWS* FOREVER.

YET EVER SINCE I LOST HER, LAYLA'S MEMORY HAS CLUNG TO ME LIKE A *SHROUD.*

DROWNING ME IN THE DEPTHS OF *ENDLESS REGRET.*

BUT KHONSHU'S MISSION HAS TAKEN ME FAR BEYOND THE *LAND OF THE LIVING.*

AND MUCH TO MY SURPRISE--I FIND MYSELF FACING MY *GHOSTS* ONCE AGAIN.

DON'T BOTHER LYING TO US, RAMSES...

SHE CALLS HERSELF THE *SCARLET SCARAB* NOW--PROTECTOR OF THE CITY OF THE DEAD.

WE'VE SPENT ALL NIGHT SHAKING DOWN YOUR MEN.

IT STILL FEELS SO INCREDIBLE TO ME--SEEING LAYLA AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

AND TRUST ME--YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ON MY FRIEND *MOON KNIGHT'S* BAD SIDE.

TIME TO START TALKING, PHARAOH--WHERE'S THE BOY?

I DUNNO ANYTHING ABOUT NO KIDS, MOON PRIEST.

BUT IF YOU'RE STUPID ENOUGH TO PAY A VISIT TO *THE DUAT*...

SNAPP!

...PERHAPS MY USHABTI CAN MAKE YOU A MORE *PERMANENT* RESIDENT!

CH-CHAK

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH LETTING YOUR EMOTIONS RUN ROUGHSHOD...

...IT ALWAYS LEAVES YOU *VULNERABLE.*

LAYLA-- GET DOWN!

HEARTS ON FIRE

BEFORE HE SENT ME HERE, DR. BADR TOLD ME THIS REALM WAS *PSYCHOACTIVE*-- SHAPED BY THE CONTENTS OF ONE'S HEART.

SPAKK

KRAKT

SPANGG

BUT THEN I REMEMBER *KHALIL*--HOW THE SONS OF THE JACKAL LEFT HIM TO DIE IN THE STREETS...

...AND IT BECOMES THAT MUCH *HARDER* TO KEEP MY THOUGHTS IN CHECK.

KRAKOOM

STUPID, MARC-- LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN...

NNF...

NO--NOT HIM... NOT *DOCTOR ALRAUNE!*

REALITY SNAPS BACK WITH THE ROAR OF A MACHINE GUN--BUT I'VE GOT A *GUARDIAN ANGEL* WATCHING OVER ME.

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

MARC--GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME!

THE ROOM SHIFTS LIKE A *KALEIDOSCOPE*--IS THIS LAYLA'S DOING...?

GOTTA SAY--THAT'S A NEAT TRICK, LADY.

INTERESTING--HOW FAR IS THE SCARAB'S REACH?

I'VE NEVER TESTED THE LIMITS BEFORE--MAYBE TEN, TWENTY FEET?

GOOD--THEN TRY TO KEEP UP...

"...BECAUSE I INTEND TO TAKE A MORE *HANDS-ON* APPROACH."

KEEP SEARCHING FOR THEM--THEY COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!

CONSIDER IT A PERK OF THE JOB--I CAN ALTER THE CITY'S ARCHITECTURE IN A PINCH.

WE MOVE WITH PRECISION, FALLING BACK INTO OLD RHYTHMS AS IF IT WAS YESTERDAY.

GRNN--!

IT SOUNDS CRAZY WHEN YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD--MARC SPECTOR AND LAYLA EL-FAOULY, *STAR-CROSSED SOLDIERS FOR HIRE.*

WHERE--?

BUT SHE UNDERSTOOD ME IN A WAY NOBODY ELSE HAS... NOT EVEN *KHONSHU* HIMSELF.

KRAATCH

SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT DEEP DOWN, WE'VE ALL GOT SOMETHING TO ATONE FOR...

SHE *WARNED* YOU NOT TO GET ON MY BAD SIDE...

...EVEN IF IT MEANS LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES TO DO IT.

AH WELL-- IT'S *YOUR FUNERAL.*

I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO RAMSES--HE SPARED NO EXPENSE FOR PROTECTION.

C'MON-- GOTTA GET AWAY FROM THAT FREAK!

GAHH--!

BUT THAT'S THE DANGER OF RELYING ON BODYGUARDS.

NO, NO, NO...

MY USHABTI!

WHUDD

THEY'RE ALL BARK AND NO *BITE*.

NOW LET'S TRY THIS ONE LAST TIME-- *WHERE'S KHALIL?*

Y-YOU'RE BLUFFING--I'M ALREADY *DEAD*, PAL!

NOTHING 'SIDES *THE DEVOURER HERSELF* CAN PUNCH MY TICKET!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, RAMSES--BUT THERE ARE FATES *FAR WORSE* THAN DEATH.

NOW THAT'S AN IDEA--HOW'D YOU LIKE TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH YOUR *FACE* CUT OFF?

A-ALL RIGHT--ALL RIGHT! I GIVE, I *GIVE!*

ALL I KNOW IS--SOMETHIN'S GOIN' DOWN AT *THE DOCKS!*

THE SHIPYARD OF MESEKTET, TO BE EXACT--WHERE FLYING BARGES FILLED WITH LOST SOULS COME FOR HARBOR.

WITH ITS SPRAWLING MAZE OF WAREHOUSES, IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE--UNLESS YOU HAVE THE PROPER VANTAGE POINT.

IT'S STRANGE HOW NICE THIS FEELS--DOESN'T THIS REMIND YOU OF THAT EXTRACTION JOB WE DID IN *DAMASCUS?*

YOU'RE THINKING OF BOTSWANA--DAMASCUS IS WHERE I GOT *TORTURED* FOR A WEEK.

NOW IF YOU REALLY WANTED ME TO TRUST YOU, YOU COULD TELL ME HOW YOU GOT THAT *SCARAB* AROUND YOUR NECK...

THAT'S *MY* BUSINESS--DID I EVER QUESTION YOU ABOUT YOUR *D.I.D.?* OR WHY YOU'VE STARTED DRESSING UP LIKE A *GHOST?*

I CAUGHT THE WRONG BULLET--AND THEN *THE WILL OF KHONSHU* BROUGHT ME BACK.

NOW STOP AVOIDING THE QUESTION--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

THAT'S THE REAL QUESTION, MARC--ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT WHEN *I DIED...*

...OR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME *AFTER?*

"MY GRANDFATHER WAS A TRUE BELIEVER--ONE OF THE LEADING SCHOLARS AT THE *EGYPTIAN MUSEUM* IN CAIRO.

"WHEN I WAS A CHILD, HE WOULD REGALE ME WITH STORIES OF *THE DUAT*...

"BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL *ALEXANDRIA* THAT I LEARNED THE MYTHS WERE ALL TRUE.

"WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN THE CITY, MY HEART WAS WEIGHED UPON THE *SCALES OF JUSTICE.*

"BUT I'VE BEEN ON THE WRONG SIDE OF MANY WARS--AND I FEARED I WOULD BECOME *AMMUT THE DEVOURER'S* NEXT MEAL.

"YET MUCH TO THE GODS' AMAZEMENT...MY HEART WAS IN *PERFECT BALANCE.*

"IT WAS THE GREAT *TAWERET* WHO BELIEVED THAT I STILL HAD UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

"SHE OFFERED ME THE CHANCE TO PRESERVE BALANCE AS THE GUARDIAN OF THE DUAT...

"...TO BE GIVEN THE POWER OF THE *SCARLET SCARAB.*"

ONLY THESE DAYS, I WONDER IF I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

NO ONE'S SEEN OSIRIS OUTSIDE HIS PALACE IN AGES--AND EVERY DAY, SCUM LIKE RAMSES ESCAPE *THE SCALES OF JUSTICE.*

I CAN HEAR THE GRIEF IN HER VOICE--SHE'S BEEN *ALONE* FOR SO LONG.

IF IT MEANS ANYTHING, LAYLA... I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T SAVE YOU.

...ARE YOU?

IF SHE ONLY KNEW HOW MUCH I'VE *MISSED* HER...

...SHE'D REALIZE SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH *UNFINISHED BUSINESS.*

I WANT TO BELIEVE--THAT EVEN MERCS LIKE US CAN HAVE A HAPPY ENDING...

MARC, I--

...BUT IF ONE THING IS STILL THE SAME BETWEEN US...IT'S THAT *THE JOB* COMES FIRST.

RRRRNNNNNNNN

LOOK--IT'S ONE OF THE USHABTI!

AND HE'S LUGGING SOMETHING *BIG* BEHIND HIM--LET'S SEE WHERE HE'S HEADED...

IT'S BEEN *TWELVE HOURS* SINCE I BROUGHT KHALIL TO BADR'S CLINIC.

BUT WITHOUT HIS *SOUL*, THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG THE BOY'S *PHYSICAL BODY* WILL SURVIVE.

WHICH MEANS THERE'S NO TIME TO PLAY THIS *SUBTLE*.

THAT'S SOME GRIM CARGO YOU'RE CARRYING, MONSTER.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF WE TAKE IT OFF YOUR HANDS!

THRAK

MY HEART POUNDS AS I PULL THE LID FROM THE SARCOPHAGUS...

PLEASE, GOD-- LET KHALIL STILL BE ALIVE...

BUT THEN I REMEMBER WHAT LAYLA SAID--HOW THERE ARE SOME THINGS FAR *WORSE* THAN DEATH.

NO.

PL-PLEASE, MISTER--YOU G-GOTTA HELP ME...

TH-THE JACKALS... TH-THEY TOOK MY HEART.

MY MIND REELS IN HORROR--NOT BECAUSE OF THE *SHEER CRUELTY* ON DISPLAY...

LAYLA-- IT'S NOT *HIM*...

STAY WITH THE BOY, MARC-- I'LL SHED SOME LIGHT FOR US...

...IT'S THAT KHALIL WASN'T THE ONLY ONE TAKEN BY THE JACKALS-- JUST THE LATEST.

OH GOD.

MARC-- THERE ARE SO MANY CAGES...

"ALL THESE CHILDREN-- WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?"

DEEP INSIDE, I CAN FEEL THE WRATH OF KHONSHU THREATENING TO BOIL OVER.

FIRST, WE FREE THE VICTIMS--AND THEN WE PUT THE BASTARD WHO DID THIS INTO THE GROUND.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND--WHAT DO THE JACKALS WANT WITH A GROUP OF *GRADE-SCHOOLERS?*

FOR HE BROUGHT ME BACK AS THE TRAVELER, THE PATHFINDER, THE EMBRACER...

LOOK AROUND--THE SCALPELS, THE IDENTICAL HOLLOWED-OUT CHESTS...

YOU WANTED TO KNOW HOW CRIMINALS LIKE RAMSES KEEP ESCAPING THE SCALES OF JUSTICE?

...THE DEFENDER OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT.

THEY'RE USING THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN TO DO IT.

AND NO MATTER WHERE IT LEADS ME...*MY MISSION DOES NOT CHANGE.*

STAND BACK-- WE'RE GONNA GET YOU KIDS OUT OF HERE!

RRRN
NK

BECAUSE I'M STILL HAUNTED BY ALL THE THINGS I'VE DONE OVER THE YEARS...

WELL, LOOK AT THIS--MOON KNIGHT, STILL IN FIGHTING FORM...

...JUST WAITING FOR THE DAY MY SINS FINALLY CATCH UP WITH ME.

BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT--WE DON'T MIND...

...'CAUSE WE'VE BEEN *DYING* TO GET A PIECE OF YOU!

THE PAST BEARS DOWN UPON ME LIKE A *FREIGHT TRAIN*...

...AS I FACE DOWN A *MOB OF KILLERS* I'D LAST SEEN IN THE MORGUE.

LAYLA-- THE KIDS!

ON IT-- BUILDING AN *ESCAPE TUNNEL* FOR THEM NOW!

WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS, THEY KNOW ME INSIDE AND OUT...

...NOT JUST AS *MOON KNIGHT*... BUT AS MARC SPECTOR TOO.

KZZRAAAP

NYAARRGH!

THEY KNOW THAT EVERY NIGHT, I CAN STILL SEE MY ENEMIES' FACES.

LIKE *MASTER SNIPER*--WHO I LET PERISH IN AN AVALANCHE.

TAURUS--I WATCHED HIM DIE IN A PLANE CRASH.

THRAKK

WE'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, MOON KNIGHT!

BLACK SPECTRE-- THREW HIM OFF A BUILDING.

RRRR-- KILL YOU!

SHRAKT

MIDNIGHT-- STABBED HIM TO DEATH WITH A CLOCK-TOWER HAND.

NO-- HE'S MINE, DAMMIT!

VRRRRR

CHAINSAW--DROPPED A SHIPPING CONTAINER ON HIM.

NOW, NOW, BOYS.

THERE'S PLENTY OF HIM FOR US TO SHARE.

FROOOSH

PLASMA--LEFT HER TO DIE IN A SUBWAY COLLISION.

THERE'S JUST ONE CHANCE--CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL OFF AT ONCE...

SNAP

RRRAAAGH!

I REACH OUT TO MY *GUARDIAN ANGEL* FOR PROTECTION...

LAYLA-- PLEASE--!

I'M SORRY, MARC...

...AND THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVER HOW ALONE I TRULY AM DOWN HERE.

...I WISH I COULD HAVE SAVED *YOU* TOO.

BUT THAT'S THE DANGER OF LETTING YOUR EMOTIONS RUN AWAY WITH YOU.

TURNS OUT YOU WERE RIGHT...

...THIS REALLY *WAS* LIKE DAMASCUS AFTER ALL.

SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS BOUND TO GET *HURT.*

TIME PASSES.

THE PAIN DOESN'T SCARE ME--IT *NEVER* HAS.

NEITHER DOES WAKING UP IN THE LION'S DEN, SURROUNDED BY MY *WORST ENEMIES.*

NNFF-- WHERE AM I?

BUT THE THING THAT SCARES ME THE MOST ISN'T THE KILLERS THAT I RECOGNIZE...

AH, GOOD-- THE *GUEST OF HONOR* FINALLY AWAKENS.

I WAS WONDERING HOW LONG I'D WAIT BEFORE WE FACED EACH OTHER AGAIN...

...IT'S THE *ONE FACE* THAT WAS MADE CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE.

LAYLA WAS RIGHT--I HAVE *UNFINISHED BUSINESS* IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD...

YET AFTER WHAT I'VE ENDURED-- YOU CAN HARDLY BLAME ME FOR BEING *IMPATIENT,* CAN YOU?

...THAT IS... ASSUMING IT DOESN'T FINISH *ME* OFF FIRST.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MARC...

...NO WARM GREETING FOR YOUR LATE BROTHER *RANDALL?*

3
ROD REIS

MY NAME IS *MARC SPECTOR*-- AND I AM NO STRANGER TO DEATH.

DON'T YOU PASS OUT ON ME, SPECTOR!

AS THE FIST OF KHONSHU, I HAVE DEFIED OBLIVION A *THOUSAND* TIMES.

KRAKT

YET DESPITE MY BEST INTENTIONS, I NOW FIND MYSELF TRAPPED IN *THE CITY OF THE DEAD*...

→KAFF← FROM THAT LITTLE *LOVE TAP?*

C'MON-- DIDN'T YOUR DADDY TEACH YOU HOW TO THROW A *PUNCH?*

OH, RIGHT, I FORGOT...YOU NEVER MET YOUR POPS, DID YOU, *MIDNIGHT?*

...AND DOWN HERE... *NO ONE* STAYS BURIED FOREVER.

"NO--WE'RE *ALL* LOOKING FOR OUR VENGEANCE, MOON KNIGHT...

HEH, THAT'S RICH--FIRST YOU KILL ME. NOW YOU TRY TO *INSULT* ME?

TOO BAD I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE YOU LEFT DYING FOR SOME *PAYBACK.*

"...AND THERE AIN'T *NOBODY* COMING TO SAVE YOUR SORRY HIDE."

SO HERE'S WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN, SPECTOR-- WE'RE EACH GONNA TAKE TURNS *BREAKING* YOU...

...AND THEN WE'RE GONNA DUMP WHAT'S LEFT TO *AMMUT THE DEVOURER*-- CAPISCE?

AND-- *RRNN*--WHAT ABOUT THE BOY?

DOES MY BROTHER HAVE *KHALIL NASSER* ON THIS SHIP?

GOTTA KEEP HIM TALKING-- JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER...

AND... *BINGO.*

THAT'S FUNNY...

...I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL *YOU* THE SAME THING.

YEAH, SURE-- WE GOT THE KID IN HIS OWN COMFY CELL DOWN HERE.

NOT THAT *YOU'RE* GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

HER NAME IS *LAYLA EL-FAOULY*-- AND I LOVED HER UNTIL THE DAY SHE *DIED.*

IT'S LIKE I SAID, MARC-- THIS REALLY WAS JUST LIKE *DAMASCUS.*

YOU SERVING AS *THE DISTRACTION* FOR OUR ENEMIES...

...WHILE I CIRCLE BACK TO TAKE CARE OF THE *CLEANUP.*

SHIIIING

NOW REBORN AS THE *SCARLET SCARAB*... SHE'S THE DEADLIEST WOMAN IN *THE DUAT.*

AH, YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDING* ME--!

FTHUMP

YET WE'RE ONLY A PAIR OF *EX-MERCENARIES*-- AND OUTSIDE AWAITS AN ENTIRE ARMY.

→KAFF← THANKS FOR THE SAVE. CAN YOUR *SCARAB* HELP US EXTRACT KHALIL?

NO--MY POWERS ONLY WORK WITHIN THE CITY'S *WALLS.*

BUT THEN I REMEMBER THE CITY OF THE DEAD IS *PURELY PSYCHOACTIVE...*

THEN WE NEED ANOTHER WAY OUT... YOU REMEMBER THAT WARLORD WE TOOK OUT IN UGANDA?

IT TOOK THREE DAYS TO SMOKE HIM OUT OF HIS *ARMORY*-- WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF THAT?

AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M GOOD AT...IT'S COMING UP WITH ***BAD*** IDEAS.

BECAUSE I NEED GUNS...

...***LOTS*** OF GUNS.

CH-CHAK

DEAD RECKONING

WHEN KHONSHU MADE ME HIS *AVATAR*, IT DIDN'T CLEANSE THE BLOOD FROM MY HANDS.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO AFTER THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S SCORE, *TAURUS?*

BACK TO MY OLD HABITS, *MASTER SNIPER*-- POLITICS, INVESTMENTS... THE OCCASIONAL *MURDER.*

QUITE THE CONTRARY-- MORE THAN ONCE, I'VE SENT EVIL MEN TO AN *EARLY GRAVE.*

I DUNNO ABOUT YOU GUYS...BUT I WANNA START A FAMILY.

YOU INTERESTED, *PLASMA?*

NOT IF YOU WERE THE LAST FREAK SHOW ON EARTH, *CHAINSAW.*

NOW THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S SORCERY HAS BROUGHT THEM BACK FOR RETRIBUTION...

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S TAKING *MIDNIGHT* SO LONG...

AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ME, MARC SPECTOR SHALL DIE AT THE HANDS OF *THE BLACK SPECTRE.*

...I SEE THIS AFFORDS ME A SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY.

I WOULDN'T WAIT FOR DEAR OLD *JEFF...*

MMF--!

FWUMP

M

IT'S LIKE MY THERAPIST ALWAYS TELLS ME...

...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE GETTING A SENSE OF *CLOSURE.*

...HE'S *INDISPOSED.*

BRAKKABRAKKABRAKKA

THEY SAY THE ONLY WAY TO FACE *TRUE OBLIVION* HERE IS THROUGH *AMMUT THE DEVOURER.*

NOT *BAD,* MASTER SNIPER...

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU AIM WITHOUT A *KNEECAP!*

BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

NNF--!

WHY WON'T YOU JUST *BURN* ALREADY?!

FROOSH

THESE REVENANTS HAVE GROWN *CARELESS,* KNOWING THEY CANNOT BE KILLED...

...BUT WE CAN STILL REMIND THEM THAT THERE ARE PUNISHMENTS FAR WORSE THAN *DEATH.*

BETTER THAN YOU HAVE *TRIED,* PLASMA...

THRAKK

...AND I'M STILL HERE!

TOGETHER, WE PUSH THE *LEGION OF THE UNLIVING* BACK ON THEIR HEELS...

TIME TO *DIE*, SPECTOR-- *NNF!*

WHUDD

NOT EVEN IN YOUR *BEST* AFTERLIFE, CHAINSAW.

...YET THERE ARE SOME WHO REFUSE TO GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT.

DAMMIT-- MY M16 WON'T PIERCE TAURUS' HIDE!

BLAMMM BLAMMM BLAMMM

BUT LEAVE IT TO *LAYLA* TO REMIND ME THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY THROW AT US...

...NOBODY OUTCLASSES *THE KARNAK COWBOYS.*

MARC, DARLING--THE M16 IS A LITTLE *PEDESTRIAN*, DON'T YOU THINK?

THE *NEXT* TIME YOU TAKE A GIRL OUT...

...MAKE SURE YOU BRING HER SOME *REAL* FIREWORKS.

KTHOOOOM

OF COURSE, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE OUR MERCENARY YEARS...

→KAFF← I'M N-NOT *SCARED* OF YOU, MOON KNIGHT!

Y-YOU MAY HAVE KILLED ME *ONCE*...BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR *BLACK SPECTRE* TO RETURN THE FAVOR!

AND DOWN HERE, IT'S ALL TOO *EASY* TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE PAST.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO NEED A *CATCH-UP*--DO YOU WANT ANY HELP?

NAH-- I'VE GOT THIS *HANDLED.*

SO I'D BE DOING MYSELF A *DISSERVICE* IF I DIDN'T PROVE TO HER...

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH *SUPER VILLAINS* THESE DAYS...

...THAT OLD DOGS CAN STILL LEARN *NEW TRICKS.*

...THEY'RE ALWAYS BRINGING KNIVES TO A *CHAINSAW* FIGHT.

RRRRRRM

YET NO MATTER HOW MUCH I'VE CHANGED, ONE THING HAS REMAINED THE SAME.

KLATCH

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, YOU JACKAL-FACED *CREEP*...

...WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, I'M *NEVER* GONNA HELP YOU!

I MAY HAVE BEEN A BAD MAN WHO DID SOME *BAD THINGS*...

SO GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR MAGIC TRICKS, AND YOU CAN *SHOVE* 'EM--

KLANK

...BUT GOD AS MY WITNESS... I'LL NEVER STOP TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

HEY, KID...

YOU READY TO BUST OUT OF THIS JOINT?

MISTER KNIGHT!

AND SEEING THAT KHALIL'S STILL BREATHING...IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I ACTUALLY STAND A *CHANCE*.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- MISTER KNIGHT, YOU *FOUND* ME!

YOU'RE A *TRAVELER OF THE NIGHT*, KHALIL...

...AND THAT MEANS I'LL *ALWAYS* COME FOR YOU.

NOW, C'MON-- LET'S GET YOU OUTTA HERE, KID...

MARC-- YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE THIS.

THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S PLAN... IT GOES DEEPER THAN WE EVER IMAGINED.

"IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE ANYONE HAS SEEN OSIRIS, THE GOD OF DEATH AND REBIRTH.

"WITHOUT HIM, CORRUPTION IN THE CITY HAS RUN RAMPANT... AND I THINK I KNOW WHY.

"THESE TOMES SAY OSIRIS TRAVELS TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING ONCE A GENERATION...

"...AND SELECTS A MORTAL VESSEL TO BECOME HIS NEWEST HOST.

"BUT THE SONS OF THE JACKAL FOUND HIM AND TRIED TO TAKE OSIRIS' POWER AS THEIR OWN...

"...THAT IS...UNTIL THE FIST OF KHONSHU INTERVENED."

THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE, MARC.

I THINK KHALIL IS OSIRIS' LATEST HOST.

THAT'S WHEN I HEAR A *VOICE* AS COLD AS THE GRAVE...

I MARVEL AT YOUR POWERS OF *DEDUCTION*, MY DEAR...

MY BROTHER... *RANDALL SPECTOR.*

YEARS AGO, I SLIT HIS *THROAT* AND WATCHED HIM *DROWN.*

ONLY NOW HE'S RETURNED...AS *THE JACKAL KNIGHT.*

AND HERE I THOUGHT MARC WAS SIMPLY A *MINDLESS* ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION...

JUST A *RABID DOG* IN DESPERATE NEED OF BEING PUT DOWN.

WE KNEW EACH OTHER BETTER THAN *ANYONE*-- AND I CAN ALREADY SEE HOW THIS FIGHT WILL END...

KHALIL-- WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT, I WANT YOU TO *RUN.*

I DIVE IN GUNS BLAZING TO GET MY BROTHER'S ATTENTION.

IF YOU WANT THAT KID, RANDALL...YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH *ME!*

BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM

SPLAKK

SPANGG

SHRAKT

OH, MARC...

AND IT WORKS-- FOR ALL OF *FIVE SECONDS.*

THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I INTEND TO DO.

THAT'S IT, SPECTOR-- ALL YOU NEED IS TO BUY LAYLA SOME TIME...

LET HIM GO, YOU SON OF A--*NNF!*

...EXCEPT RANDALL'S ALWAYS HAD A FEW SURPRISES UP HIS SLEEVE.

AH, CLEVER-- SHE IS CERTAINLY A FEISTY ONE!

STRUGGLE ALL YOU'D LIKE, BROTHER...

NOT EVEN YOU CAN WITHSTAND THE POWER OF A *THOUSAND* ANGRY GHOSTS.

GOTTA FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS--NEED TO TRY AND *STALL* HIM...

WH-WHO DID THIS TO YOU, RANDALL?

YOU LEFT ME TO DIE IN A WATERY GRAVE, MARC...

DID YOU *REALLY* THINK I WAS JUST GOING TO LIE BACK AND REST IN PEACE?

"NO--EVEN *MY DEMISE* WAS REMARKABLY SHORT-LIVED...

"...WHEN I BECAME AN UNWILLING TEST SUBJECT OF *THE BLASPHEMY CARTEL.*

"THEY TURNED ME INTO A *REVENANT*--A GHOSTLY VESSEL OF UNHOLY TERRORS...

"...UNTIL I WAS CAST INTO THE ABYSS BY *THE SORCERER SUPREME.**

*AS SEEN IN *DOCTOR STRANGE #4.* --TOM

"I AWOKE IN *THE CITY OF THE DEAD*...AND PLEDGED MYSELF TO THE DEATHBRINGER *ANUBIS.*

"BUT YOU KNOW WHAT SUSTAINED ME THROUGH ALL THOSE YEARS OF HORROR AND *AGONY*...?"

IT WAS THE IDEA OF ***BREAKING*** YOU THE SAME WAY YOU'D BROKEN ME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, BROTHER--WOULD IT HURT ***MORE*** IF I TORTURED YOUR LITTLE STRUMPET FIRST?

IF YOU ***TOUCH*** HER, RANDALL, THERE'S NO PLACE IN ***HEAVEN OR HELL*** YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM ME.

HA--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HELL IS, MARC...NOT ONE ***DAMNED*** BIT.

"HELL ISN'T FIRE OR BRIMSTONE OR EVEN THE JAWS OF AMMUT...

"...IT'S FALLING THROUGH THE ENDLESS BLACK...AND KNOWING IT WAS YOUR OWN ***FLESH AND BLOOD*** THAT BETRAYED YOU."

YOU KNOW, YOUR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS REALLY GIVEN ME A CHANGE OF HEART, MARC.

BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...I ***REALLY*** WANT TO DO YOU FIRST.

I PRAY FOR LAYLA'S ***FORGIVENESS*** AS I BRACE MYSELF FOR THE END.

BUT THAT'S WHEN I SEE ***KHALIL*** APPEAR FROM THE SHADOWS...

N-NO--STOP IT...

AND FOR THE *FIRST TIME* IN HIS LIFE... HIS EYES ARE WIDE OPEN.

YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM, YOU MONSTER!

NOT ON MY WATCH!

SHRAKOOW

KRAKADOOOOOOOOOOM

THE BLAST THREW RANDALL INTO *THE DESERT*--GOTTA GET OUT BEFORE THE SHIP *COLLAPSES*...

KHALIL-- HOW DID YOU *DO* THAT?

JUST W-WANTED TO *HELP*, M-MISTER KNIGHT...

B-BUT NOW... I'M NOT FEELING SO GOOD...

...BEFORE THINGS TAKE AN EVEN *GREATER* TURN FOR THE WORSE.

OH, DEAR LORD--MARC, HE'S SEIZING UP!

"THE STRAIN ON HIS SYSTEM-- *KHALIL'S BODY* IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME!"

BECAUSE KNOWING MY LUCK, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH TO ESCAPE *THE FRYING PAN...*

YEAH-- ABOUT THAT, LAYLA...

KHALIL'S LITTLE *SURGE* DIDN'T JUST TAKE OUT MY BROTHER...

...IT SERVED AS A *DINNER BELL.*

RMBB

BBBB

...NOT WHEN YOU COULD JUST AS EASILY BE THROWN INTO *THE FIRE.*

WE'VE AWAKENED AMMUT THE DEVOURER!

I SEE A FLASH OF ELDRITCH ENERGY ON THE GROUND...

CLEARLY, RANDALL AND HIS GOONS AREN'T STICKING AROUND TO *WATCH.*

WHICH MEANS LAYLA, KHALIL AND I ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT ON THE DEVOURER'S MENU.

LAYLA--I NEED YOU TO TAKE KHALIL TO *THE GATES OF OSIRIS.*

NO, THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*-- WE'LL NEVER GET CLEAR OF AMMUT IN TIME!

YOU CAN...IF SOMEONE SERVES AS A *DISTRACTION.*

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? NO, MARC--YOU *CAN'T* DO THIS...

YET AS THE SECONDS WIND DOWN, LAYLA KNOWS I'M RIGHT...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--FOR YEARS, ALL I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WAS HOW I COULD'VE SAVED YOU...

BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M GOOD AT...IT'S COMING UP WITH *BAD* IDEAS.

AND NOW THAT I FINALLY GET MY CHANCE...?

I COULDN'T IMAGINE A *BETTER WAY* TO GO OUT.

STAY ALIVE, MARC--I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU AS SOON AS I GET KHALIL SAFE.

I'LL HOLD YOU TO IT-- NOW GET OUT OF HERE AND DON'T LOOK BACK...

WE DON'T STICK AROUND TO SAY GOODBYE...

THE TEARS IN LAYLA'S EYES DO ALL THE *TALKING* FOR HER.

STAY WITH ME, KHALIL...

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, WE'RE GONNA GET YOU HOME!

SHE TAKES TO THE SKIES AS FAST AS SHE CAN.

BUT NOT EVEN THE BLADE OF TAWERET CAN OUTRACE THE DEVOURER'S HUNGER...

HSSSSSS

...AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT *SOMEONE* ELSE RUNNING INTERFERENCE.

KRRRRRNCH

BASED ON SHEER SIZE, I'D BET THE SHIP WEIGHS AROUND *THREE HUNDRED TONS...*

HRRRRRN...?

...MORE THAN ENOUGH TO GIVE THE DEVOURER A MEAL SHE'LL *NEVER* FORGET.

THAT'S RIGHT, AMMUT...

YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?

YET THE PLAN ONLY WORKS IF SHE'S FOCUSED ON ME...

RRRRAAARRGH!

THEN COME AND GET IT!

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE LAYLA AND THE KID GET AWAY CLEAN.

NO-- MARC, LOOK OUT!

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR--AND I AM NO STRANGER TO *DEATH.*

GIVE 'EM *HELL,* LAYLA...

BUT IF *TODAY* IS THE DAY WHEN I FINALLY MEET MY END...

AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE *MY BROTHER* OUT THERE...

...TELL HIM THAT, IN THIS LIFE OR THE NEXT...

...THEN I'D BETTER MAKE IT A GOOD ONE.

...I'M STILL COMING FOR HIM.

4

ROD REIS

MY NAME IS *DOCTOR YEHYA BADR*--AND I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER.

NO--!

SO WHEN MARC SPECTOR ARRIVED WITH A *DYING CHILD* IN HIS ARMS, I COULD NOT REFUSE HIM...

PULSE IS DROPPING-- HE'S GOING INTO *CONVULSIONS!*

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

...FOR WE ARE FISTS OF *KHONSHU*--SWORN TO DEFEND TRAVELERS OF THE NIGHT.

YOU MUST *FIGHT*, KHALIL--IN THE NAME OF ALL THE GODS...

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

TO PROTECT THIS BOY, MY BROTHER HAS EMBARKED ON A *DANGEROUS* QUEST...

...*YOU CANNOT SURRENDER!*

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEBEEP

...HE HAS VENTURED INTO *THE CITY OF THE DEAD*...YET I FEAR NOT EVEN HE CAN PREVAIL.

HE'S STABILIZED... FOR NOW.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, SPECTOR, YOU MUST HURRY...

"...THE BOY IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME."

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR... AND I AM *LOST.*

I WAS A MARINE ON MY FIRST *TOUR OF DUTY.*

HE WAS A *STRANGER* TRYING TO STAY ALIVE.

AND IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, I KNEW IT WAS EITHER *HIM* OR *ME.*

BLAM

YEARS LATER, HIS *DEATH RATTLE* STILL ECHOES IN MY MEMORY.

BACK THEN, I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT THE WORLD WAS ABOUT-- BUT I WAS *WRONG.*

BECAUSE THAT WAS THE DAY I FIRST *KILLED* A MAN.

YES-- THAT'S IT, MOON PRIEST...

...SURRENDER YOUR HEART TO ME.

GIVE YOURSELF TO AMMUT THE DEVOURER.

AN UNQUIET GRAVE

MY NAME IS *LAYLA EL-FAOULY*--AND ONLY I CAN SAVE TWO WORLDS.

EVER SINCE I DIED, I HAVE PROTECTED THE DUAT AS *THE SCARLET SCARAB.*

STAY WITH ME, KHALIL--I'VE GOT YOU!

BUT IF I DON'T GET KHALIL TO THE *GATES OF OSIRIS,* ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOOSE IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING...

...AND MY DARLING MARC'S *SACRIFICE* WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.

BEHIND YOU...LOOK OUT!

AS THE LATEST HOST OF *OSIRIS,* KHALIL IS A VESSEL OF UNTOLD POWER...

HANG ON, KID--WE'VE GOT *INCOMING!*

SHOW

...AND THAT MEANS A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO SEE HIM *DEAD.*

THIS MAY BE MORE *CHALLENGING* THAN I'D THOUGHT.

TAWERET PRESERVE US...

THEY CALL THEMSELVES *THE LEGION OF THE UNLIVING*--AN ARMY RAISED BY THE SORCERY OF ANUBIS...

...LED BY MARC'S DEAD BROTHER, *RANDALL*... THE MURDEROUS *JACKAL KNIGHT.*

STAY AFTER THEM--WE NEED THE BOY FOR *THE RITUAL!*

AND AS FOR THE SCARAB... LET'S MAKE IT *MESSY*, SHALL WE?

A *CHILL* RUNS DOWN MY SPINE, AND I KNOW THE CHICAGO SNOW ISN'T TO BLAME.

CAN'T COLLECT MY *THOUGHTS*--SYNAPSES FIRING ALL AT ONCE...

...AS TERRORS OF THE *PAST*, *PRESENT* AND *FUTURE* CRASH UPON ME.

GOING SOMEWHERE, MARK?

OR AM I TALKING TO *JAKE* OR *STEVEN* NOW?

YOU KNOW HOW HE IS, MONSIEUR SPECTOR--ALWAYS RUNNING FROM *SOMETHING.*

BUT YOU'LL NEVER OUTRACE YOUR *SINS*, WILL YA, BOY?

THE THREE GHOSTS I COULD NEVER ESCAPE--MY FATHER, *RABBI ELIAS SPECTOR*...

MY SON--HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN *THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?*

HOW *FAR* YOU'VE FALLEN--A JEW SWEARING FEALTY TO THE GOD OF HIS *OPPRESSORS!*

...*FRENCHIE*, THE MAN WHO MENTORED ME WHEN I WAS AT MY LOWEST...

IT GETS WORSE, ELIAS--WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "*THOU SHALT NOT KILL*"?

BECAUSE YOUR CRUEL BOY HAS BEEN A *VIRTUOSO* OF DEATH.

...AND *BUSHMAN*--THE BUTCHER WHO FORGED ME INTO WHAT I AM TODAY.

NAH, MARC IS PURE *OLD TESTAMENT*--AND HE'S BEEN OUT THERE *HONORING* HIS FATHER...

...THE ONLY FATHER WHO *MATTERS*, THAT IS.

THE EARTH *SHUDDERS* BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF MY TRANSGRESSIONS...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MARC? NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO BE THE WHITE KNIGHT...

...WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU'RE A STONE-COLD *KILLER.*

...AND A *THOUSAND* CORPSES RISE TO TAKE THEIR POUND OF FLESH.

I TRY TO *SCREAM*-- BUT MY THROAT WON'T LET ME.

NO--!

BECAUSE SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN... I KNOW THAT I *DESERVE* THIS.

YES...I CAN FEEL HIS MIND STARTING TO *BREAK.*

SOON, HE WILL BE *READY...*

"...SOON, HE WILL MAKE A *FINE MEAL* FOR THE DEVOURER."

SKRAAW

NO MATTER HOW FAST I FLY, THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S MEN SHOW NO SIGNS OF STOPPING.

AND EVEN WORSE--THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH *COLLATERAL DAMAGE.*

WH-WHAT IN OSIRIS' NAME--?

HE WANTS ME TO *CHOOSE*--KHALIL OR THE INNOCENTS ON THE GROUND.

YET THE GODDESS *TAWERET* GAVE ME THE POWER TO SHAPE THE DUAT.

OH GODS!

PLEASE-- YOU ALL HAVE TO GET TO *SAFETY!*

THIS FIGHT ISN'T *MEANT* FOR YOU...

...THIS IS BETWEEN HIM AND ME!

THOOM

STOP HER, DAMN YOU!

BRING DOWN THE SCARAB, OR I'LL RETURN EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU TO OBLIVION!

AND I REFUSE TO TRADE IN *LIVES.*

THAT'S IT--I'VE GOT THE JACKAL KNIGHT *MAD* NOW...

VOOOOOOOOOMM

...BECAUSE I'M GONNA NEED HIM *DISTRACTED* IF THIS IS GONNA WORK.

HOLY MOTHER OF--!

KRAKOOM

THE WAILS ARE DEAFENING AS I FALL THROUGH A PARADE OF *TORTURED MEMORIES.*

EVERY BULLET, EVERY KNIFE, EVERY BLUNT-FORCE TRAUMA...I *FEEL* EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.

BECAUSE THESE ARE MY MEMORIES--AND I KNOW NO MATTER HOW HARD I FIGHT...

...DEATH WILL *ALWAYS* BE MY LEGACY.

WHUMP

AND THERE'S ONLY *ONE* WAY TO BALANCE THE SCALES.

MY AVATAR-- I BRING YOU THIS SACRED OFFERING.

YES, KHONSHU...

...I'M FINALLY *READY* NOW.

THE DESERT MOON FEELS *COLD* AGAINST MY SKIN AS I SAY MY LAST FAREWELLS.

THAT'S IT, SPECTOR--YOU *KNOW* WHAT YOU MUST DO.

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND GIVE YOURSELF TO ME.

BUT THEN I HEAR A FAMILIAR *VOICE* FROM ACROSS THE SANDS...

AHEM-- *MARC SPECTOR,* I PRESUME...?

...AS MY ULTIMATE *JUDGMENT* HAS FINALLY ARRIVED.

MY NAME IS *DOCTOR PETER ALRAUNE...*

I THINK YOU AND I SHOULD TALK.

BEEN RUNNING FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE *HOURS*--WE'RE ALMOST AT THE GATES OF OSIRIS.

SHRAK

POW

AAAAARGH!

CAN'T BLACK OUT NOW--NOT WHEN WE'RE SO *CLOSE*...

NNF!

FWUMP

THANK THE GODS, *THOTH* AND *SHESMU* ARE HERE--THEY CAN PROTECT THE BOY NOW...

IMPOSSIBLE-- HOW DID YOU RETRIEVE THE LORD OF SILENCE?!

QUICKLY, SCARAB--BRING THE HOST OF OSIRIS TO US--!

BUT THERE ARE SOME FORCES EVEN STRONGER THAN THE *GODS*.

NYARRGH!

SHRAKOOWWW

NO-- KHALIL...

COME ON-- WE NEED TO KEEP *MOVING!*

OH, MY DEAR SCARAB...I THINK THE BOY IS *FAR* BEYOND THAT.

I CAN FEEL THE *MYSTIC ENERGY* SHIFTING IN THE WINDS...

"FINALLY... THE VESSEL OF OSIRIS IS *DYING*, ISN'T HE?"

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

YES--HIS SPIRIT HAS BEGUN TO *TRANSCEND.*

YOU'RE *TOO LATE* TO STOP ME NOW, BLADE OF TAWERET...

I CAN FEEL THE SPELL NOT JUST IN MY BODY--BUT THROUGH *THE SCARAB* ITSELF.

SHZRAAK

NO-- *KHALIL!*

...TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING BUT *SURRENDER* TO YOUR FATE!

NYAAAARGH!

BECAUSE THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S POWER HAS GONE *BEYOND* KHALIL NOW...

LET THE RITUAL OF OSIRIS BEGIN!

IN THE NAME OF THE DUAT, I INVOKE THY POWER...

IN THE NAME OF THE ENNEAD, I BIND THY SPIRIT...

...HE'S TAKEN CONTROL OF *THE CITY OF THE DEAD.*

AND IN THE NAME OF ANUBIS, THE ALMIGHTY JACKAL...

...I SHALL RAISE THIS REALM...TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

YOU'VE BEEN *AVOIDING* ME, MARC.

ST-STAY BACK...HAVEN'T I SUFFERED *ENOUGH* FOR YOU?!

THE NIGHT BUSHMAN AND I ARRIVED AT YOUR DIG SITE, EVERYTHING *CHANGED*...

"...YOU WERE THE FIRST *INNOCENT* WHO DIED BECAUSE OF ME.

"AND EVERY NIGHT SINCE, I'VE *PUNISHED* MYSELF TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I DID TO YOU."

SO IF YOU'VE COME TO FINISH ME OFF, I WOULDN'T *BLAME* YOU...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HATE ME...IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO HOW MUCH I HATE *MYSELF.*

AH, MARC-- AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

...YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

YOU MAY HAVE FAILED TO SAVE ME FROM BUSHMAN-- BUT YOU PRESERVED THE THING I CHERISHED *MOST* AS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST...

...MY *LEGACY.*

"HOW MANY LIVES HAVE YOU *SAVED* SINCE YOU BECAME THE FIST OF KHONSHU?

"HOW MANY *FAMILIES* HAVE YOU KEPT TOGETHER IN MY NAME?"

DO YOU REMEMBER THE *LAST THING* I SAID BEFORE THE END, SPECTOR?

...YOU TOLD ME TO PROTECT YOUR *DAUGHTER.*

AND YOU HAVE--EVEN WHEN IT'S COST YOU *EVERYTHING.*

YOU'VE WATCHED OVER *MARLENE*...GIVEN ME MY BEAUTIFUL GRANDCHILD, *DIATRICE*...

...EVEN CARRIED ON THE ALRAUNE *NAME.*

THERE'S NO SUCH *THING* AS A GOOD DEATH, MARC...

...BUT YOU'VE KEPT MY *MEMORY* ALIVE IN ALL THE WAYS THAT TRULY MATTER.

YOU MAY THINK OF YOURSELF AS A ***MONSTER,*** MARC SPECTOR...

...BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW... I FORGAVE YOU A ***LONG*** TIME AGO.

HE EMBRACES ME--AND I FEEL THE WEIGHT OF ***ETERNITY*** FINALLY FALL FROM MY SHOULDERS.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WHAT FEELS LIKE ***FOREVER...***

...I CAN FINALLY SEE THINGS ***CLEARLY*** AGAIN.

SNNKT

IT'S NOW OR NEVER-- I DRAW MY BLADES, KNOWING I'M HOPELESSLY *OUTNUMBERED...*

MY LORD-- LOOK AT *THE WALLS!*

...BUT THAT'S WHEN I HEAR THE *SOUND.*

RRRMMB BBBBBB

OUT THERE--THERE'S SOMETHING HEADING OUR WAY!

THE THUNDERING *ROAR* THAT HERALDS A FORCE OF NATURE.

YOU FOOLS! NOT EVEN *AMMUT* CAN STOP THE POWER OF--WHAT?

THOOOOM

OH DEAR GODS-- *RUN!*

AMMUT THE DEVOURER HAS COME FOR US!

AND IN A WAY... I SUPPOSE IT *IS.*

NO... IT CAN'T *BE!*

SHNKK

BECAUSE THEY'RE ABOUT TO FACE *THE VENGEANCE THAT NEVER DIES...*

THAT'S RIGHT--AMMUT WAS JUST THE *WARM-UP...*

...THEY'RE ABOUT TO FACE THE JUDGMENT OF THE *MOON KNIGHT.*

BUT WHEN I GET *FINISHED* WITH YOU, RANDALL...

...YOU'RE GONNA *WISH* I LET THE DEVOURER HAVE YOU.

5

EVERYWHERE YOU TURN, YOU CAN HEAR THE SCREAMS--THE *UNLIVING* HAVE RETURNED TO CONSUME THE MORTAL WORLD.

DESPITE THE BRAVE SOULS WHO STILL RESIST, THERE'S JUST *ONE SLIM HOPE* THAT REMAINS.

TIGRA--DOES THE AVENGERS HANDBOOK SAY ANYTHING ABOUT *ZOMBIE INVASIONS?*

JUST THE USUAL, REESE--KEEP *PUNCHING* UNTIL THE BAD GUYS STOP COMING!

KHALIL NASSER--AN ORPHAN SECRETLY CHOSEN AS THE VESSEL OF THE GOD *OSIRIS.*

DEFY ME AT YOUR *PERIL,* SPIRITS--THIS BOY IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF HUNTER'S MOON!

MY NAME IS *MARC SPECTOR*-- AND I PROTECT THE STREETS FROM MY MIDNIGHT MISSION.

AND WHEN THE CULT OF ANUBIS LEFT KHALIL ON DEATH'S DOOR, I EMBARKED ON A DANGEROUS QUEST...

...TO RESCUE HIS SOUL FROM *THE CITY OF THE DEAD.*

IT WAS HERE I FOUND MY LOST LOVE, *LAYLA EL-FAOULY*-- NOW THE *SCARLET SCARAB*, DEFENDER OF THE DUAT.

MARC, I'LL TRY TO FIND COVER FOR *KHALIL*...

...BUT WE NEED TO GET HIM TO THE *GATES OF OSIRIS!*

NOW WE FACE THE HORDES OF THE *JACKAL KNIGHT*-- MY LATE BROTHER, *RANDALL*, RESURRECTED AS THE CHAMPION OF *ANUBIS*.

YOUR HOPES ARE *FUTILE*, MY DEAR--I HAVE DRAWN THE POWER OF *OSIRIS*...

...AND SOON MY *LEGION OF THE UNLIVING* SHALL RISE UP AND CONQUER THE MORTAL REALM!

DRIVEN MAD WITH *VENGEANCE*, MY BROTHER STILL BLAMES ME FOR HIS DEATH.

NO--AS LONG AS KHALIL'S STILL *BREATHING*, I MADE A PROMISE TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE.

AND IT'S THAT OBSESSION THAT'S MADE HIM *CARELESS*.

OH, REALLY, MARC--YOU AND WHAT *ARMY*?

BECAUSE THIS REALM IS *PSYCHOACTIVE*-- SHAPED BY THE CONTENTS OF ONE'S *HEART*.

YOU SHOULD *KNOW* THIS ABOUT ME BY NOW, RANDALL...

AND IF THIS JOURNEY HAS TAUGHT ME *ANYTHING*...

...IT'S THAT I'M NOT *ASHAMED* OF WHO I AM ANYMORE.

I AM THE TRAVELER.

THE EMBRACER.

THE PATHFINDER.

THE DEFENDER OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT.

I AM...THE MOON KNIGHT!

VENGEANCE NEVER DIES

DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER--IT'S A CONDITION I'VE MANAGED MOST OF MY LIFE...

RRRRR-- A CHEAP TRICK, NOTHING MORE!

ETERNAL LIFE TO WHOEVER BRINGS ME MOON KNIGHT'S HEAD!

...BUT TODAY, IT JUST MIGHT BE THE EDGE WE NEED TO TURN THE TIDE.

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE, MARC--I NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD TURN YOUR ALTERS INTO AN ARMY!

YOU KNOW ME, LAYLA--I ALWAYS BRING THE PARTY.

MASTER SNIPER DRAWS FIRST, AIMING FOR A QUICK HEADSHOT...

THAT'S IT, JUST A LITTLE-- NNF--!

THRAKK

...BUT I LEARNED ALL ABOUT FAST HANDS FROM MY ALTER JAKE LOCKLEY.

GRAB THE KID AND HAUL ASS, MARC-- WE GOT YA COVERED!

YEAH, YOU'RE COVERING HIM-- BUT WHO'S COVERING BLACK SPECTRE?

KLANGG

NICE MOVES, LADYBUG-- YOU GOT ANY DINNER PLANS AFTER THIS?

MEANWHILE, *STEVEN GRANT* IS THE PERSONALITY WHO EMBODIES MY REFINED, *ANALYTICAL* SIDE.

RRAARGH-- QUIT *SQUIRMING,* DAMN YOU!

ALWAYS QUICK WITH A GADGET, A GAMBIT OR A WITTY *REMARK.*

AND GIVEN *PLASMA'S* AIM...YOU REALLY OUGHT TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR *SURROUNDINGS!*

KEEP *LAUGHING,* MOON KNIGHT-- YOU'LL BE THE NEXT TO *FRY!*

FROOOSH

VRRRRRRRM

SLOPPY BUSINESS ALL AROUND, *CHAINSAW.*

FWOOOO

WHAT THE--?

YOU MAY COMMAND THE *FLAMES,* LITTLE ONE...

...BUT I WIELD THE *NIGHT!*

KHONSHU MUST BE GETTING SOFT IN HIS IMMORTAL AGE--AFTER ALL, HE LET THEM *LIVE.*

NO-- *TAURUS!*

THOOM

I'LL ADMIT, STEVEN, EVEN IN THIS SMALL FASHION...IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.

WITH MY UNLIKELY "FAMILY" AT MY SIDE, I ALLOW MYSELF A GLIMMER OF *HOPE* THAT WE MIGHT STILL WIN.

WHUDD

SORRY, *MIDNIGHT*-- WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SETTLE THIS ANOTHER TIME!

HANG ON, KHALIL, WE'RE *ALMOST*-- *NYARRGH!*

SHRAAK

BUT NO MATTER WHO COMES TO MY AID... THERE ARE SOME BATTLES I MUST FIGHT *ALONE.*

DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE FROM *ME,* BROTHER?!

I AM THE *ULTIMATE ENEMY*-- YOUR GREATEST SIN.

I JUST PRAY TO ANYONE WHO CAN STILL *LISTEN.*

AND BELIEVE ME... I PLAN TO MAKE YOU *SUFFER* FOR IT.

PLEASE, FOR THE SAKE OF TWO WORLDS...DON'T LET ME BE *TOO LATE.*

YOU MAY HAVE SOME *FANCY FOOTWORK,* SPECTRE...

...BUT I LEARNED TO DANCE WITH THE *KARNAK COWBOYS!*

SHIIIIING

NNFF--I CAN FEEL IT THROUGH THE *SCARAB.*

THE DUAT IS CROSSING OVER INTO THE *LAND OF THE LIVING!*

OUR ONLY CHANCE IS IF I PUSH THE SCARAB *FURTHER* THAN EVER BEFORE...

...AND THEN HOPE I'M LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT.*

RMMMMMMBR

IT'S YOUR SHOW, *LADYBUG*--WHAT DO WE DO TO STOP IT FROM *SPREADING?*

TO CONTAIN AN ENTIRE CITY--? YOU *CAN'T.*

NYAARGH!

HEAR ME NOW, JACKAL KNIGHT--*THIS REALM* IS UNDER MY PROTECTION!

FOR I AM THE *SCARLET SCARAB*...

...AND TAWERET AS MY WITNESS... *I WILL NOT BREAK!*

DEAR LORD, SHE'S ACTUALLY *DOING* IT--LAYLA'S HOLDING BACK THE ENTIRE CITY!

WE MUST KEEP *FIGHTING*, STEVEN--OR ELSE HER ENDEAVORS SHALL BE IN VAIN...

"...IF WE FAIL TO BUY MARC TIME TO STOP THE JACKAL KNIGHT ONCE AND FOR ALL!"

KRAK

OH, MARC-- STILL TRYING TO PRETEND YOU'RE THE *HERO*, AREN'T YOU?

BUT I'VE KNOWN WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE EVER SINCE I WAS A BOY.

"THE BELOVED *FIRSTBORN*-- WHO BROKE OUR FATHER'S HEART TO PURSUE YOUR *BLOODLUST!*

"MARC SPECTOR-- THE SOLDIER, THE MERCENARY, THE REMORSELESS *KILLER!*"

YET THE COSMIC JOKE OF IT ALL-- WHEN YOUR SINS FINALLY *CAUGHT UP* WITH YOU...

KRAKT

...THE GREAT KHONSHU SPARED YOUR LIFE...AND GAVE YOU A SECOND CHANCE.

AND WHAT DID YOU *DO* WITH THAT OPPORTUNITY, MOON KNIGHT?

"BESIDES SLIT MY THROAT AND LEAVE ME TO *DIE?*"

WAS I NOT *MURDEROUS* ENOUGH, MARC?!

WHY DOESN'T *YOUR BROTHER* DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE?!

THOOM

MY GOD--EVEN THROUGH EVERYTHING, KHALIL IS STILL *CLINGING* TO LIFE.

→GASP←-- M-MISTER KNIGHT!

N-NO...HE WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER...

→KAFF← TH-THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S TOO *POWERFUL*...

BUT IT ISN'T UNTIL HE REACHES THE BLADE THAT I REALIZE WHAT HE'S ABOUT TO DO.

HE WON'T STOP U-UNTIL HE HAS ALL OF OSIRIS' *MAGIC*...

...UNLESS SOMEBODY CUTS HIM OFF AT THE *SOURCE*.

I'M *S-SORRY*, MISTER KNIGHT...

BANK

...THIS WAS THE *ONLY* WAY...

I TRY TO REACH OUT FOR *KHALIL*--BUT HE'S TOO FAR GONE ALREADY.

KHALIL--
NOOOO!

KRAKT

GNNFF--!
STUBBORN TO THE LAST, EH, BROTHER?

NO MATTER...YOU WILL FALL BEFORE THE WRATH OF--
ARRRGH!

THOOOOOOOOM

IMPOSSIBLE--
THE POWER IS GONE!

BECAUSE IT WAS NEVER YOURS TO BEGIN WITH, MORTAL...

...FOR I AM HE WHO BEARS THE EYE--
THE MIGHTY OSIRIS!

AND I AM FINALLY FREE FROM YOUR SORCEROUS GRASP...

...THANKS TO MY HOST'S VALIANT SACRIFICE.

NO!

I WON'T LET YOU WIN, MARC--NOT AFTER *EVERYTHING* YOU'VE DONE!

MY BROTHER LASHES OUT WILDLY--HE KNOWS HIS SCHEMES ARE *OVER*...

IF I CAN'T RAISE THE CITY OF THE DEAD, THEN I'LL DO THE *NEXT BEST THING.*

I'LL CONSUME *YOUR HEART*--AND USE YOUR BODY TO KILL ANYONE YOU'VE EVER LOVED!

...AND THAT'S WHEN IT HITS ME--WHAT HIS *REAL* GAME HAS BEEN ALL ALONG.

IS *THAT* IT, RANDALL--YOU REALLY WANT TO HAVE *MY LIFE* SO BADLY?

THEN GO AHEAD AND *TAKE IT!*

I LOOK MY BROTHER IN THE EYE, AS HE FINALLY DISCOVERS *THE TRUTH.*

N-NO...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

BEING MARC SPECTOR ISN'T FOR THE *FAINT OF HEART.*

ALL THAT ANGUISH...ALL THAT *GUILT...*

HOW DO YOU LIVE WITH SO MUCH *PAIN?!*

I BEG YOU-- FREE ME FROM THIS *CURSED* PLACE!

KRAKADOOOOM

FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT'S HOLY-- *LET ME* OUT!

IT'S A *STRANGE THING*, SEEING THIS BROKEN MAN ONCE CAPABLE OF SUCH ATROCITIES.

IT'S OVER, RANDALL...BUT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT *ONE THING.*

I FAILED YOU *SO MANY TIMES*--AS A BROTHER, AS A HERO, AS A FRIEND...

...AND ALL I'VE EVER WANTED WAS TO TELL YOU THAT I'M *SORRY.*

BUT I DON'T SEE A *VILLAIN* HERE ANYMORE...JUST A LOST AND LONELY SOUL.

WH-WHY DID YOU COME HERE, MARC?

WHY WOULD YOU R-RISK IT ALL...F-FOR SOME *MEANINGLESS KID?*

AND FOR FAR TOO LONG... PERHAPS WE'VE BEEN *TWO OF A KIND.*

...

ISN'T IT *OBVIOUS,* RANDALL...?

"WHEN I LOOKED AT HIM...IT MADE ME THINK OF *YOU.*"

YOU HAVE FOUGHT *WELL*, MORTALS--NOW I SHALL OVERSEE THE JACKAL KNIGHT'S CONFINEMENT.

UNTIL HE IS CLEANSED OF ANUBIS' BLIGHT, IT MAY BE *MILLENNIA* BEFORE HE FACES JUDGMENT.

AND WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, OSIRIS?

YOU ABANDONED YOUR KINGDOM--AND NOW YOUR *GAMES* HAVE COST THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT CHILD!

WHERE ARE THE SCALES OF JUSTICE, MIGHTY ONE--WHERE IS YOUR JUDGMENT?!

YOU ASK WHY I SEEK *MORTAL VESSELS*, LITTLE ONE? KNOW THAT IT IS FOR A GREATER CALLING.

NOT EVEN A GOD WOULD BE FIT TO JUDGE THE LIVING WITHOUT THE GIFT OF *MORTALITY* FIRST.

IT IS THROUGH MY JOURNEYS THAT I SEE THE SCALES OF JUSTICE TURN FOR YOU.

YOUR HEART'S BALANCE HAS FINALLY *SHIFTED*--AND YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR *ETERNAL REWARD*.

AND AS FOR THE BOY... YOUR WORDS DO HOLD *WISDOM*.

FOR I AM THE GOD OF DEATH AND REBIRTH... AND I OWE HIM A *BOON*.

I FEEL THE WORLD SHIFT FROM ITS AXIS--AND I REALIZE MY TIME HAS JUST *RUN OUT.*

NO, NO, NO--OH GOD...

LAYLA-- HE'S SENDING US BACK!

YET AFTER ALL THIS...I'M STILL NOT READY TO SAY *GOODBYE.*

SWEETHEART... I--I CAN'T DO THIS...

I DON'T THINK I CAN SURVIVE LOSING YOU *TWICE.*

OH, MARC... CAN'T YOU *SEE?*

YOU'LL *NEVER* LOSE ME... AS LONG AS YOU CARRY ME IN YOUR *HEART.*

MY GUARDIAN ANGEL GIVES ME A *FAREWELL* THAT BLAZES ACROSS MY MEMORIES.

BE *GOOD,* HANDSOME...

AND NOW I KNOW, DOWN IN *THE CITY OF THE DEAD...*

I'LL SEE YOU IN THE *NEXT LIFE.*

...MEMORIES ARE THE *ONLY* CURRENCY THAT MATTERS.

LAYLA!

THE WEIGHT RUSHES OVER ME, KNOCKING THE *WIND* FROM MY CHEST.

NOT JUST THE HEAVINESS OF HUMAN FLESH...BUT THE SHEER *GRIEF* THAT OVERWHELMS ME.

NO...I'M *BACK.*

STILL I CLAW MYSELF FROM MY SARCOPHAGUS, HOPING AGAINST *IMPOSSIBLE* HOPE.

BADR-- IS HE...?!

GREETINGS, BROTHER-- WE WERE *WONDERING* HOW LONG IT'D TAKE FOR YOU TO FINALLY WAKE UP.

NO OFFENSE, SIR... BUT YOU LOOK *TERRIBLE.*

MY GOD, OSIRIS KEPT HIS *WORD*--KHALIL'S ALIVE AND WELL...

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MISTER KNIGHT--I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D *SAVE* ME.

HONESTLY, KID...I THINK THE FEELING'S *MUTUAL.*

BUT AS I'VE LEARNED... THE GODS OFTEN WORK IN *MYSTERIOUS WAYS.*

KHALIL--?

NO-- IT *CAN'T* BE...

RASHID!

KHALIL... WHERE AM I?

THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS THIS *BLINDING LIGHT...*

EVER SINCE HIS BROTHER DIED, KHALIL HAD BEEN LIVING ON THE STREETS.

BUT THANKS TO THE GOD OF DEATH AND REBIRTH, A FAMILY TORN ASUNDER IS *REUNITED.*

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRO? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A *GHOST.*

IT'S ALL RIGHT, RASHID-- WE'VE GOT *A LOT* TO CATCH UP ON.

YOU MAY BE *UNDISCIPLINED,* SPECTOR...BUT YOU HAVE FULFILLED OUR FATHER'S MISSION WELL.

DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING TO *CHAT* WITH KHALIL'S BROTHER...?

NO... *OF COURSE* NOT.

MAY THE GODS WATCH OVER YOU, MY FRIEND.

"AND MAY YOU ONE DAY FIND THE PEACE THAT YOU SO RICHLY *DESERVE.*"

NO MATTER WHAT I DO...I CAN'T ESCAPE THE *BLOOD.*

ONCE I WAS A *MERCENARY*...AN UNREPENTANT KILLER...

EVEN WITH MY HARDEST PRAYERS, MY *PENANCE* COULD NEVER TRULY OUTWEIGH MY GUILT.

REBORN AS THE *FIST OF KHONSHU*, I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN MY LIFE AROUND.

AND DESPITE MY SINS...I WAS EVEN GRANTED THE CHANCE TO SAY *GOODBYE.*

SEEING LAYLA ONE LAST TIME-- AND KNOWING THAT SHE STILL *BELIEVED* IN ME...?

BE *SEEING* YOU, MARC...

PERHAPS ONE DAY, MAYBE I'LL EVEN BELIEVE IT *MYSELF.*

BUT UNTIL THAT DAY COMES, I'LL PROTECT THE INNOCENT THE WAY SHE'D WANT ME TO.

MY NAME IS MARC SPECTOR...

...AND I AM THE *MOON KNIGHT.*

WANT TO KNOW THE BEST WAY TO EXPLORE THE MARVEL UNIVERSE?

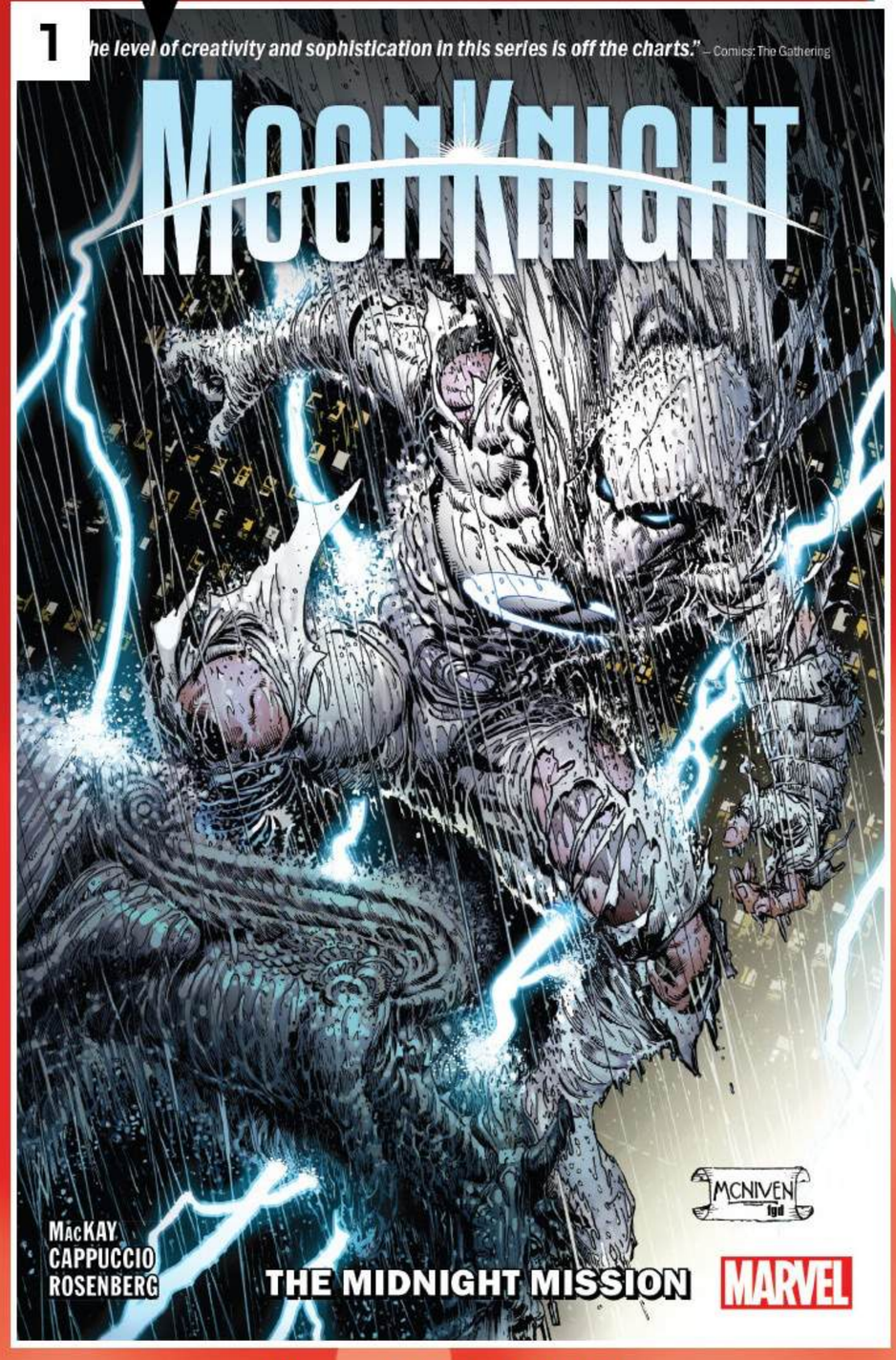
THIS GUIDE WILL SHOW YOU WHERE TO BEGIN!

FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF MOON KNIGHT

IN THESE COLLECTED EDITIONS!

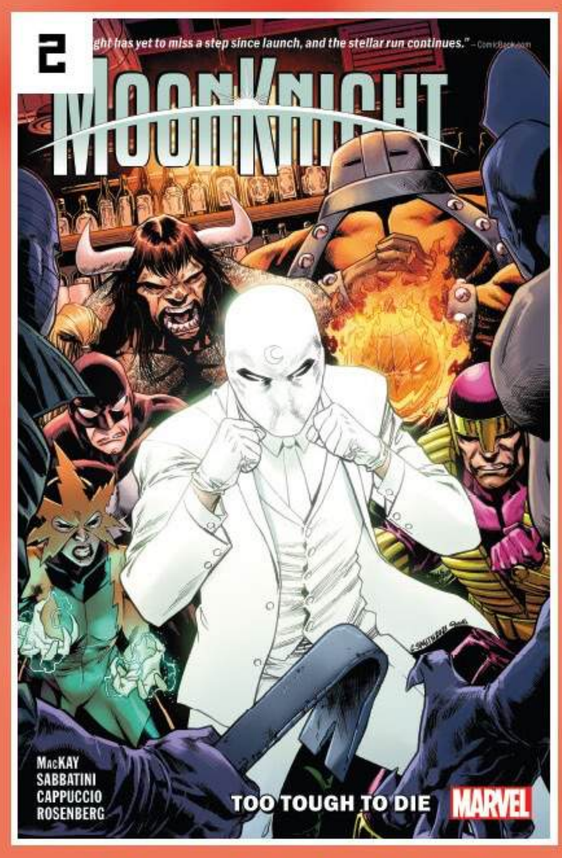
START HERE

1



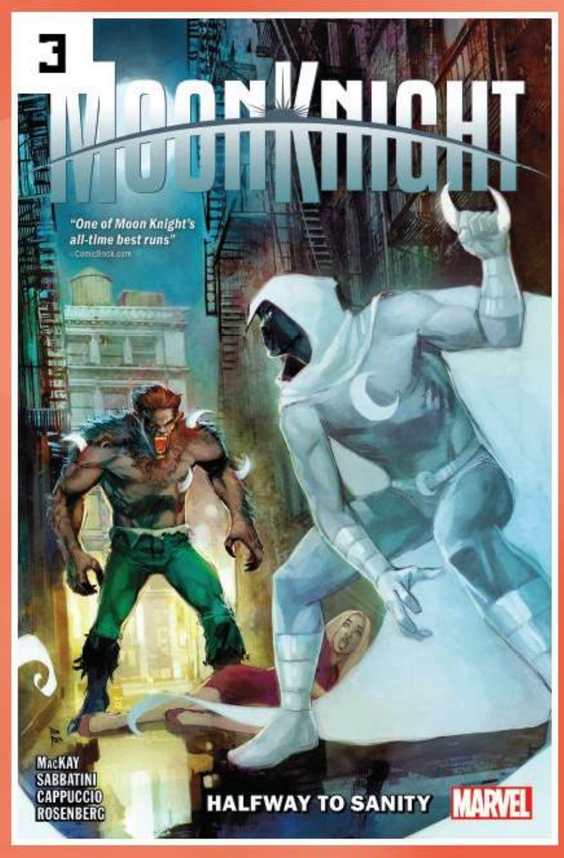
Moon Knight Vol. 1:
The Midnight Mission

2



Moon Knight Vol. 2:
Too Tough To Die

3



Moon Knight Vol. 3:
Halfway to Sanity

4

Moon Knight Vol. 4:
Road to Ruin

DAVI GO

#1 VARIANT

PEPE LARRAZ & MARTE GRACIA

#1 FOIL VARIANT

PETE WOODS

#1 VARIANT

SKOTTIE YOUNG

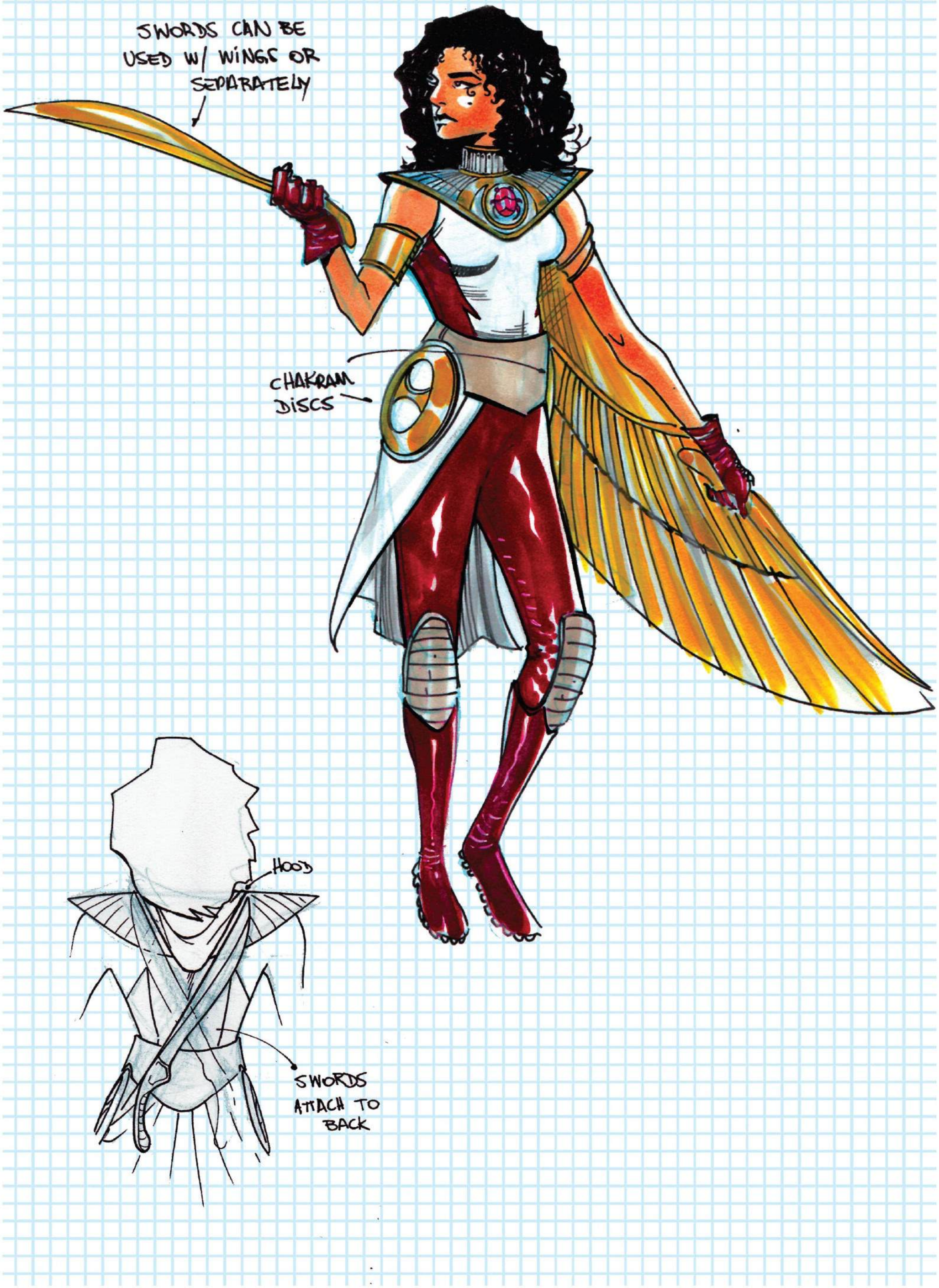
#1 VARIANT

ALEX HORLEY

#2 VARIANT

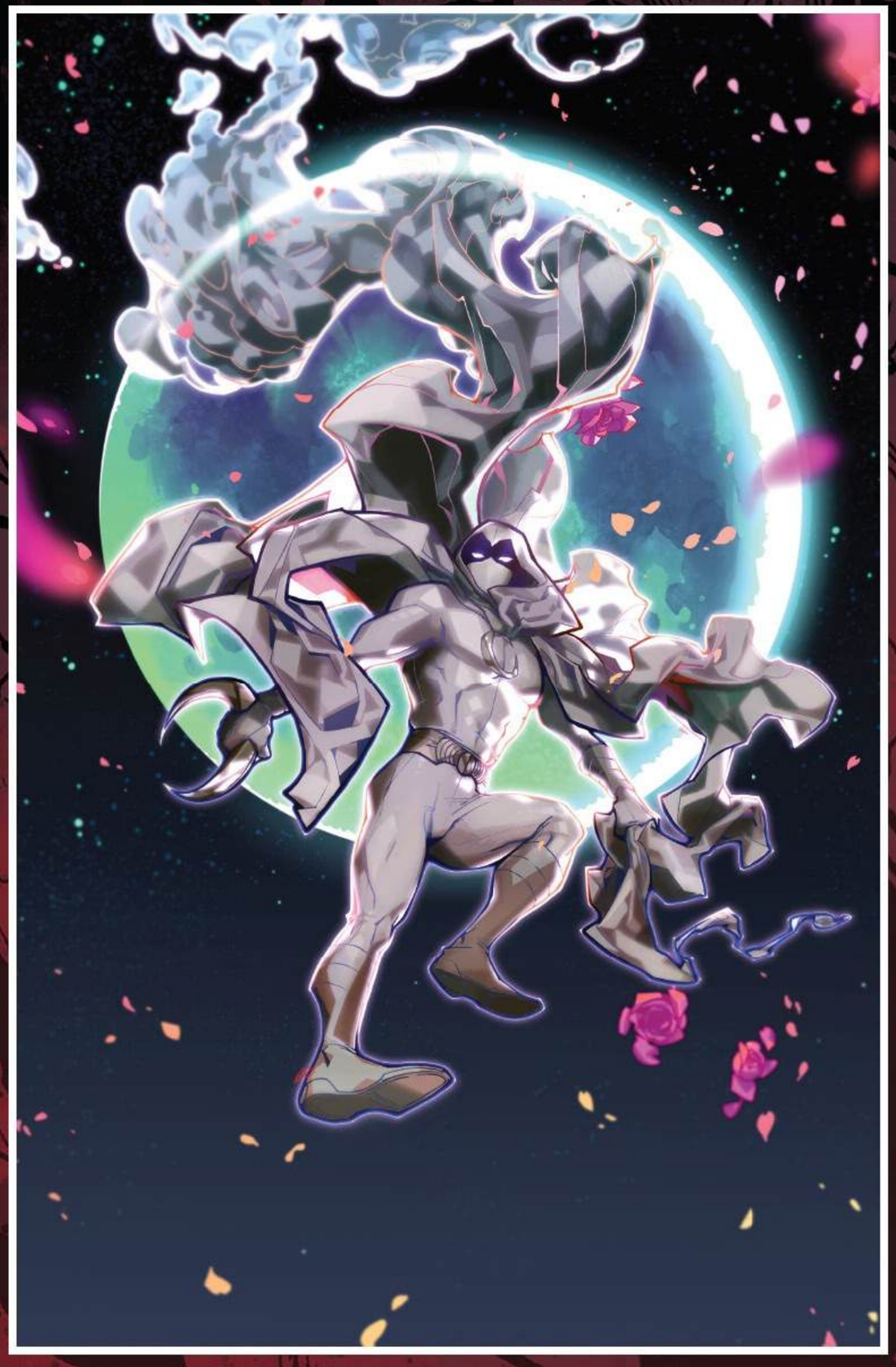
BILL SIENKIEWICZ

#2 VARIANT



MARCELO FERREIRA

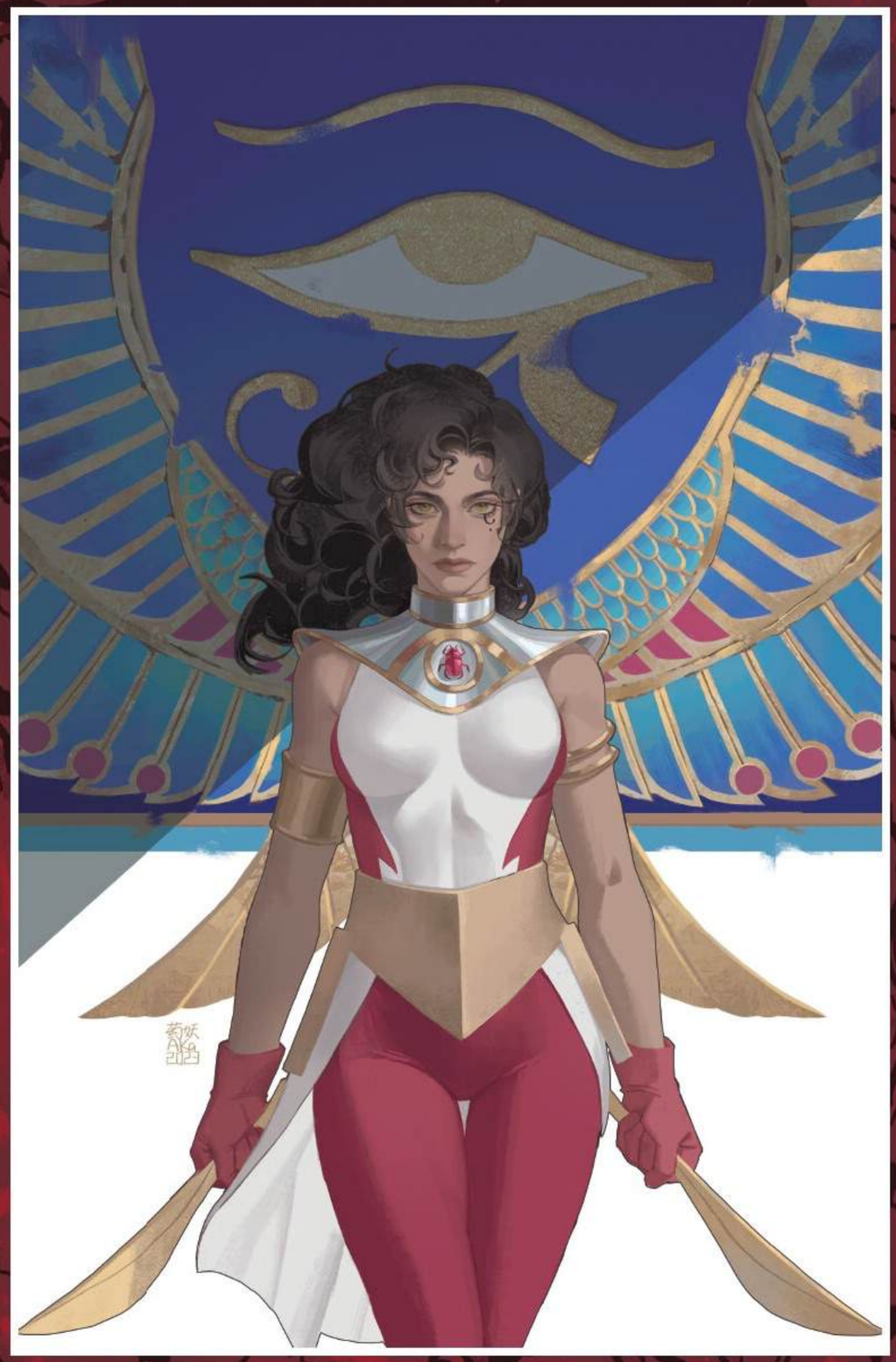
#2 DESIGN VARIANT



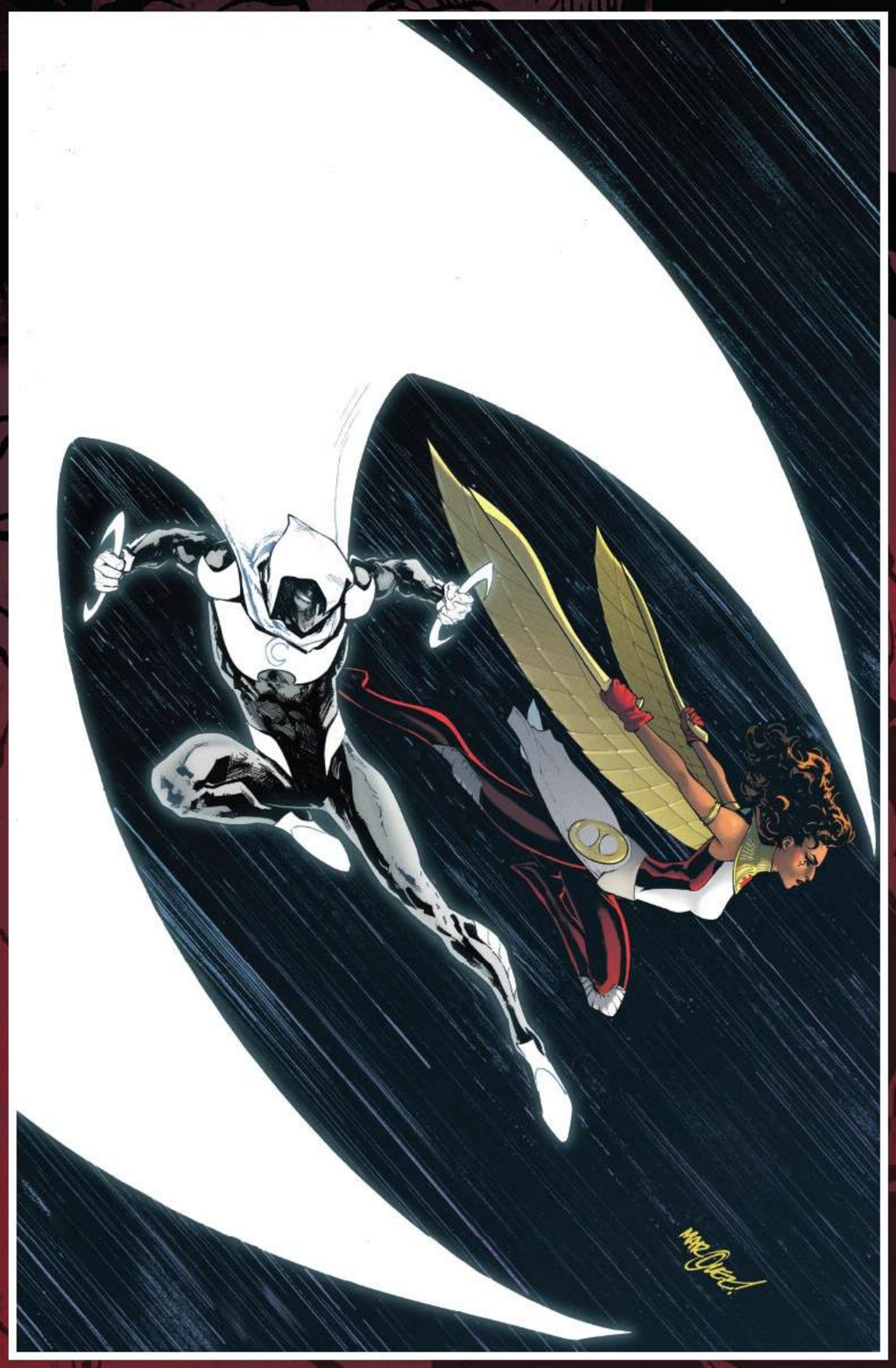
ROSE **BESCH**
#2 VARIANT

ARIO **ANINDITO** &
RACHELLE **ROSENBERG**
#3 VARIANT

E.M. **GIST**
#3 VARIANT



AKA
#4 VARIANT



DAVID **MARQUEZ** &
CHRIS **O'HALLORAN**
#4 VARIANT

PHIL **NOTO**
#5 VARIANT

JAN **BAZALDUA** &
FEDERICO **BLEE**
#5 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT

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T+

COLLECTING ***MOON KNIGHT: CITY OF THE DEAD #1-5*** – BY DAVID PEPOSE, MARCELO FERREIRA, SEAN DAMIEN HILL, JAY LEISTEN AND RACHELLE ROSENBERG.

MARVEL